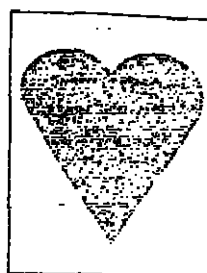

Win a romantic break

A chance to take your Valentine to Paris tomorrow, **Details, page 7**

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Goodbye Ms Blobby

Ginny Dougary hires a personal trainer and prepares to burn the fat, **p17**

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THE TIMES

No. 65,189

MONDAY FEBRUARY 13 1995

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN SERIALS DIVISION

Cool letter rebuts EU borders claim

Major fights back after minister quits

By Arthur Leathley, political correspondent

JOHN MAJOR moved swiftly yesterday to prevent further Tory divisions over Europe by dismissing a minister's resignation claim that he was failing to tackle a potential immigration crisis.

The Prime Minister and senior Cabinet colleagues attempted to isolate Charles Wardle, who resigned as industry minister at the weekend and issued a warning that Britain's "quality of life is jeopardised" by European immigration laws.

Wardle: "EU is risking Britain's quality of life"

Mr Wardle's accusation that Mr Major had "ducked" the immigration issue threatened to deepen Conservative unease over Europe. He called yesterday for firm leadership to fight off the threat posed by legal changes in Brussels. The resignation came after months of meetings between Mr Wardle and the Prime Minister, in which Mr Major had been warned that the changes threatened to erode British immigration controls.

In his resignation letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Wardle, a former immigration minister, said there was "a fundamental difference of opinion" between them. "I have always been in favour of a Europe in which we can compete and trade without hindrance, but I cannot stand by while our quality of life is jeopardised," he wrote.

He denied claims made by some government insiders that he had become disenchanted with his junior post as industry minister and was looking for an issue on which to leave the Government.

His resignation came as ministers were trying to stop simmering Cabinet disagreements over a single currency flaring up into open warfare. Cabinet ministers conceded that there were differences of opinion over the direction Britain should take on monetary union beyond 1997.

William Cash, one of the leading Tory Euro-sceptics, seized on Mr Wardle's resignation as support for their cause. He congratulated the MP for Bexhill and Battle for being "the first minister I can think of who has actually resigned on priciple over this question of Europe".

Mr Major insisted in his letter of reply to Mr Wardle that "the Government are absolutely clear that the right to maintain immigration controls at points of entry should be maintained". The Prime Minister's language was, however, noticeably cooler than that used in reply to other ministers who have resigned in the last three years.

"We believe this is an essential safeguard, not only against illegal immigration, but also to combat transnational crime and terrorism. Entry control makes sense for Britain, as an island state, and we have no intention of giving it up," he wrote.

Mr Wardle has pressed the Government to make the issue of immigration a key part of negotiations at next year's inter-governmental conference on the future of Europe. Although Margaret Thatcher secured a declaration in 1985 that Britain would not be bound by European Union changes enabling member states to open up internal frontiers, Mr Wardle claims the Government is aware that legally the declaration is meaningless.

Most EU members have agreed to open up their borders with neighbouring European states, but they insist that tight checking at external borders will ensure it is no easier for illegal immigrants to enter.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, also moved to sideline Mr Wardle. "I regret that Charles Wardle has had to resign but I don't think the reasons he has given are at the heart of the European debate," he said. "We have absolutely no intention of dismantling frontier controls."

Mr Howard also tried to counter remarks by Lord Tebbit, the hard-line Eurosceptic, who claimed in a speech to the Young Conservatives that the EU was forcing the British into lawlessness. He called on animal rights activists to throw bottles and bricks at Belgian police to show their disgust over the European veal trade.

Mr Howard said: "He [Lord Tebbit] has always had the gift for the dramatic phrase, and he was using that gift to its fullest extent yesterday."

MPs' letters, page 2
Tebbit's warning, page 4
Leading article and letters, page 19

Puzzle remains over resignation

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

FEW ministers resign on issues of policy or principle, and when they do there is usually a story of personal frustration and friction behind their decision. So it was with Michael Heseltine in January 1986, Geoffrey Howe in November 1990, and yesterday, on a far lesser scale, with Charles Wardle.

The tone of John Major's reply to his resignation letter, and of Michael Howard's comments on the radio, show a degree of puzzlement and deed annoyance with Mr Wardle.

There is no doubt about the sincerity of his views on the immigration issue, which he has been pursuing for 15 months, including the seven months since he moved from the Home Office to the Department of Trade and Industry. Few at Westminster believe, however, that Mr Wardle would have pushed his worries about Brussels's intervention over British border controls to the point of resignation unless he had other worries. Few junior ministers campaign so vigorously on issues for which they no longer have direct responsibility. Even Euro-sceptics, who are concerned about immigration policy, could not understand the resignation since Mr Howard, the Home Secretary, is a vigorous defender of the present controls against any changes imposed by Europe.

Those who have spoken to Mr Wardle recently believe he has been frustrated in office. There have been widespread stories about clashes with civil servants when he was at the Home Office as well as tensions at the trade department. He had to wait nine years before entering the Government in 1992 and, like other newcomers of that time, he might have expected promotion from under-secretary to minister of state level last July: instead he was moved sideways.

Although Mr Wardle's resignation was highly unusual, other junior ministers are also frustrated with their position and prospects. Many are worried and discontented about the direction of the Government and its divisions, as well as their own prospects. They are earning much less than they would in private industry yet have little influence over departmental, let alone government policy.

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REINHARD KRAUSE/REUTER

A mother and daughter in Dresden's Hofkirche yesterday pray for the estimated 25,000 victims of the Allied bombing of the city in February 1945

Protests mar requiem for Dresden dead

From Roger Boyes in Dresden and Our Foreign Staff

THE solemn ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the British and American bombing raids on Dresden were disrupted yesterday when ten young left-wing demonstrators raced up to the altar and unfurled a banner of protest.

One demonstrator in the Hofkirche Roman Catholic cathedral yelled "Germans were the criminals, not the victims" as the others threw leaflets that said the event was an insult to the Jews murdered at Auschwitz.

The protest was one of a number of disturbances to mar the anniversary. A left-wing group had sprayed the city's memorial stone with red paint, and several activists were detained on Saturday. The stone is the focus of one event today as senior officers from Britain, the United States and Germany gather in the city's main cemetery to pay tribute to the dead.

Among those held on Saturday was Günter Deckert, the chairman of the far-right National Party of Germany, who was arrested shortly before he was due to attend an anti-British protest in Dresden. Thousands of police were deployed to stop the planned neo-Nazi demonstration. Herr Deckert — who was recently taken to court for publicly denying the existence of the Holocaust — is being held in protective custody until the anniversary commemorations are over.

Last night calm was restored as 129 bells from 46 churches rang out to mark the beginning of the anniversary. The *Dresden Bell Requiem* — composed by Johannes Wallmann — and a performance of the Mozart *Requiem* conducted by Sir Yehudi Menuhin gave an appropriately solemn stamp to the proceedings.

A group calling itself the "Co-ordination Bureau of Anti-national Cells" is preparing protests against the anniversary commemoration today. The group's organisers say that the authorities are trying to create a "cult of victimhood" and that treating Dresden as a site of martyrdom will feed "new German militaristic megalomania".

The Dresden city elders are determined to avoid the tense situation in 1992 when the Queen was booed as she toured the city. The Duke of Kent, the Queen's representative at the ceremony, will make a short speech in German, but will be protected from the crowd. So, too, will the Chief of Defence Staff, Field Marshall Sir Peter Inge.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, had no problems yesterday as he attended the Hofkirche service. Herr Kohl has been something of a hero here since December 1989 when he gave a passionate speech making it clear that German unification would be quick and generous.

The anniversary is to be marked not only by concerts, church services and discussion meetings, also by speeches from Nick Nolan, the Mayor of Coventry, and Herbert Wagner, the Mayor of Dresden.

Many regard the bombing raids, in which 25,000 people died and 12,000 buildings were destroyed, as a serious war crime but Herr Wagner will underline the fact that the city was bombed at the end of a war started by the Germans.

Raids remembered, page 8
Leading article, page 19

Baby snatch case charge

A 39-year-old woman will appear before magistrates in Prestatyn, Clwyd, today charged with the abduction of baby Lydia Owens, who was reunited with her parents at the weekend after being taken from the Glan Clwyd hospital. Three men were released without charge .... Page 3

Emergency talks at merchant bank

The directors of SG Warburg, the merchant bank, were called to an emergency meeting to prevent the defection of key staff and convince staff and shareholders that it has a viable strategy for the future .... Page 40

Devolution costs

Ian Lang, the Secretary of State for Scotland, claimed yesterday that the Scottish parliament promised by the Labour Party could cost Scots an extra 19p on income tax .... Page 2

Land deal row as girls' school closes

By Michael Horsnell and Marianne Darch

THE sudden closure of a leading girls' public school in East Sussex is to be reported to the Charity Commission amid allegations by angry parents of mismanagement by the educational trust which owns it.

Parents of the 250 boarders and day pupils at Charters-Ancaster School in Bexhill-on-Sea booed off the stage the chairman of the governors and trust representatives at a noisy meeting at the weekend for which they had received only 48 hours' notice. Teachers joined them in condemning the closure, which is linked to a multi-million land deal.

Ivor Brampton, one of the governors, who is a Bexhill Tory councillor and deputy lieutenant of Sussex, condemned the closure last night. "That land is worth £4 million. That's what it's about," he said. "The closure has been presented as a *fait accompli*. I feel insulted and aggrieved that I was not told. The parents and girls are very upset." At the meeting he refused to take his seat on the platform and branded the closure "disgraceful".

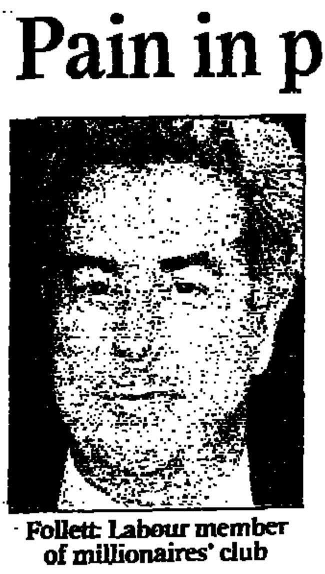
The closure of the 90-year-old school at the end of next term led yesterday to accusations of asset-stripping against the Girls Public Day Schools Trust, a registered charity which owns 26 schools. Charters-Ancaster was an amalgamation in 1986 of two schools — Ancaster House and Charters Towers — and was acquired by the trust two years later.

A parent-teachers action committee has been formed and legal advice will be taken over possible High Court action in which an injunction may be sought to freeze the proposed sale of the prime 11-acre site a mile from the

Continued on page 2, col 6

Education, page 37

Pain in paradise as millionaire sun-seekers sue



Follett: Labour member of millionaires' club

By James Bone in New York and Dominic Kennedy

THE author Ken Follett, who is hoping to build a sunshine hideaway in one of the world's most exclusive islands, has encountered trouble in paradise.

Along with Lord Sainsbury, the supermarket tycoon, and a sprinkling of fellow millionaires, Mr Follett is suing the developers of the 300-acre Jumby Bay Club, a resort off the Antiguan coast. Jumby Bay Island is best known as the holiday destination for celebrities such as George Harrison, Meryl Streep, Liam Neeson and Barbara Taylor Bradford.

At $1,000 (£640) a night, guests at island's five-star hotel can usually avoid rubbing shoulders with too many Labour Party members; they make an exception for Mr Follett, a friend to Labour leaders and a man who played an important role in Tony Blair's campaign for the Labour leadership.

Unfortunately, the club has proved a little too exclusive. A total of 71 jet-setters paid $75,000 each to join it and thereby earn the right to build multi-million-dollar island homes. But, 13 years after the scheme started, the developers have been unable to fill the 575 available places. They want to close the club, and the well heeled natives are restless.

Peter Swann, a software businessman, has sued on behalf of all the club's members. The developers are two brothers from Long Island, New York, John and Harry Mariani, who are among America's largest wine-importers. Marvin Robinson, another Jumby member, who is the members' lawyer, said the action was aimed at forcing the Mariani brothers to keep the club open. "The purpose is to force the developers to carry out the concept of the operative documents, which is to turn the resort into a members-only club," he said. "They are trying to close the club and deny the benefits the members have obtained by the investment they have made."

The resort is so exclusive that it is said once to have blackballed the Princess of

Continued on page 2, col 4

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THE LOAN CORPORATION

'I cannot stand by while our quality of life is jeopardised by a provision we have failed to tackle'

WARDLE'S RESIGNATION

THIS is the full text of the resignation letter sent to the Prime Minister by the Trade Minister Charles Wardle:

"Dear Prime Minister,

Following my recent discussion with Douglas Hurd and my earlier exchanges with you, it is clear that there is a fundamental difference of opinion between us about the need to put the derogation from Article 7a openly on the forthcoming inter-governmental conference agenda. Under these circumstances I think it best that I stand aside as a Minister. I do so with great reluctance, but my estimation of the importance of this issue leaves me no choice. I have always been in favour of a Europe in which we can compete and trade without hindrance, but I cannot stand by while our quality of life is jeopardised by a provision in the Treaty which we have failed to tackle.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working as part of your Ministerial team, first at the Home Office and more recently at the DTI. As you know, I support your leadership of the party and remain fully committed to government policy in all other respects.

I have no doubt that we can win the next general election convincingly and I shall continue to work wholeheartedly for that goal. As I have said to you previously, the resolution of uncertainties about Article 7a will provide us with a clear cut opportunity to reassure the electorate that we have British interests firmly at heart.

Yours ever, Charles."

MAJOR'S REPLY

THIS is an abridged text of John Major's reply to Charles Wardle:

"Dear Charles.

Thank you for your letter about your decision to resign from the Government.

As you know, the Government is absolutely clear that the right to maintain immigration controls at points of entry should be maintained.

We believe this is an essential safeguard, not only against illegal immigration, but also to combat transnational crime and terrorism. Entry control makes sense for Britain, as an island state, and we have no intention of giving it up. I therefore see no difference between us on the principles of this matter.

As far as interpretations of article 7(a) of the treaty are concerned, I have considered very carefully with Cabinet colleagues what course would most effectively protect this country's interests ... we shall fight to ensure that the position established by Margaret Thatcher when she signed the Single European Act in 1985, and consistently upheld by the Government since then, remains. This may, as you suggest, become a matter for the forthcoming inter-governmental conference. However, there are a number of developments in train which could affect the position before the IGC opens.

... I am grateful for your service to the Government at the Home Office and in the DTI, and for your strong support on other issues.

Yours ever, John."

UK will not weaken on immigration says Howard

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

MICHAEL HOWARD yesterday promised to maintain tough immigration controls for millions of foreigners arriving at ports and airports throughout the United Kingdom.

The Home Secretary said the Government had no intention of dismantling frontier controls which, he said, were vital for Britain. In the wake of the resignation of Charles Wardle, the Junior Trade Minister, over the alleged erosion of immigration controls by Brussels, Mr Howard said: "We are absolutely clear, these controls are vital for us and the Government is absolutely clear that they have to be kept and that they will be kept."

Within the European Union there are an estimated 12 million legal immigrants. Last year proposals in a document by the Padraig Flynn, the Commissioner for Social Policy and Immigration, suggested giving them new rights in areas such as employment and housing.

In the decade to the end of 1993, 9.8 million people from non-EU countries entered the United Kingdom, the Immigration and Nationality department annual report stated. It showed that in 1993 16,000 passengers were refused entry or deported as a result of suspicions that people claiming to have come for a short visit were trying to find work. Others were rejected because they lacked the correct entry visa and work permit, were suspected of being bogus students, or were travelling on forged documents.

The report showed that only 220 nationals from the 11 other EU countries were refused entry and deported from the UK in 1993, compared with 1,239 in 1983. More than 6,000 travellers from the Commonwealth were refused entry compared with 7,500 in 1983.

Among those refused entry in 1993 were 1,700 Poles, 1,200 Nigerians, 990 Americans and 600 South Africans. The report warned about the extent of forgery and passport abuse.

At Heathrow airport 2,360 cases involving forgery or passport abuse were spotted by immigration officials, "a significant percentage of which involved passports, visas and identity documents of member states of the European Union".

The Government has insisted that in spite of undertakings in the Single European Act defining the internal market as an area without internal frontiers, it will retain controls at entry ports. A general declaration allows states to take such steps as they consider necessary to prevent drug smuggling, terrorism and illegal immigration.

But some fear that this provision may prove less than water-tight in the event of a challenge in the European Court.

Howard: 'controls are vital to country'

SIMON WALKER

French and British police check passports on a Channel Tunnel train despite the stated aim of "an area without internal frontiers"

Minister with no time for compromise

By Arthur Leathley
Political Correspondent

MAN IN THE NEWS

THE issue of immigration goes back to Charles Wardle's roots: he was born in Quetta, Pakistan, weeks before the Second World War, and came to Britain with his family as a young child.

His resignation yesterday, following disagreements with John Major over immigration, was in keeping with his no-compromise attitude and the tough stance he adopted on immigration matters while a Home Office minister.

Mr Wardle's two-year spell at that department was punctuated by outcries from ethnic rights organisations over far-reaching legislation which removed the right of appeal for many asylum-seekers.

Tory MPs are puzzled, however, both by the timing of Mr Wardle's resignation — more than six months after leaving the Home Office — and his decision to base it on an issue that has not been at the forefront of Tory unease over Europe.

Although generally pro-European, Mr Wardle has made clear to friends that he was anxious that John Major should be seen to take a stand against the European Commission on an important issue.

A bluff, no-nonsense politician, the MP for Bexhill and Battle has had stormy relationships with senior civil servants, some of whom have accused him of rudeness and an overbearing attitude. Although he concedes he has "had battles", including one over Home Office research into refugees living in Britain, he denies strenuously that he has been unnecessarily difficult to deal with.

More potentially damaging to his ministerial career prospects was his falling out with Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. Relations between the two soured abruptly last summer when Mr Howard ordered Mr Wardle to reinvestigate applications for British citizenship made by Mohamed and Ali Al Fayed, the Egyptian businessmen and owner of Harrods.

Mr Wardle has also had to overcome opposition from constituents, but easily defeated a deselection campaign after he supported Michael Heseltine's leadership bid against Margaret Thatcher in 1990.

Colleagues say that Mr Wardle had hoped last summer that, after steering the controversial Asylum and Immigration Bill through the Commons, he would be rewarded by promotion. He was disappointed at his sideways shift to another junior post at the Trade and Industry Department although the move brought him in close contact with Mr Heseltine.

Despite the toughness of the immigration legislation he piloted through the Commons, he has emphasised that he is not trying to curb legal immigration and has maintained close contacts with the ethnic population of the West Midlands, where he is the Government's regional minister.

As a former chairman of the Conservative centre-left One Nation Forum, Mr Wardle is closely allied to Cabinet pro-Europeans such as Mr Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

Pledge on frontiers difficult to fulfil

From George Brock
in Brussels

ANTI-IMMIGRANT feeling is mounting in several continental European states and politicians are wondering whether voters will allow them to carry out the promises to abolish frontier controls that were made in the 1980s.

The dispute over Britain's right to continue passport checks began in 1985, when Europe's leaders were putting together the Single European Act. The freedoms of the single market are defined as "an area without internal frontiers in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is ensured".

In Luxembourg in 1985, Margaret Thatcher secured a declaration that nothing in the treaty would "affect the right of member states to take such measures as they consider necessary for the purpose of controlling immigration from third countries". The Commission has regularly disagreed over the issue but done nothing about it.

The Commission and most EU governments argue that once someone has entered the Union legally, he enjoys the same rights to cross frontiers without checks as any EU citizen. Britain says a means is needed of checking whether travellers are bona fide EU residents.

MEPs are taking the Commission to court for failing to enforce the rules of the single market but the Commission has been taking its side of the case as slowly as possible. On March 26 seven states that have signed the Schengen Treaty will abolish frontier controls between them. That leaves eight states reserving their right to act differently.

The declaration that Lady Thatcher negotiated in 1985 does not have the legal force of the treaty text itself. If Britain was defeated at the European Court of Justice any government would still be in a strong political position to bargain for a stronger opt-out.

Scottish parliament 'would add 19p to income tax'

By A Staff Reporter

IAN LANG, the Scottish Secretary, claimed yesterday that a Scottish parliament planned by Labour could cost Scots an extra 19p in income tax.

Mr Lang argued that Scotland had a good financial deal under the present system. But if a future government brought Scottish public spending in line with the rest of the United Kingdom, it would cut funds to a devolved Scottish parliament by almost £3 billion. To replace that, a Scottish income tax of 19p in the pound would be needed — in addition to the UK rate, he claimed.

Mr Lang's attack came as Labour and the Scottish Nationalists squared up for last night's debate in Edinburgh between George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, and Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, on the relative merits of devolution and independence. The debate will be broadcast in Scotland tonight on BBC1.

In his pre-emptive attack yesterday, Mr Lang said Scotland had an 8.8 per cent share of the UK population, but a 10 per cent share of identifiable government expenditure. The creation of an Edinburgh parliament would "sacrifice" some existing powers in force to protect Scottish interests.

"A British Chancellor could cut our funding and with no voice in Cabinet we would be powerless to stop him," Mr Lang said. "So just to maintain spending levels in Scotland, a Scottish parliament would have to levy additional taxes."

He said Labour claimed the maximum figure by which a Scottish parliament could vary income tax was 3p in the pound, but this would only raise £450 million. "If a British Chancellor decided to reduce the funding transferred to a Scottish parliament to the same level as the rest of the UK, funding would need to be cut by almost £2,845 million.

"To replace that would need additional taxation in Scotland, on top of UK taxation, of 19p on Scottish income tax just to stand still," Mr Lang said. "And if this parliament wanted to raise the current level of public spending in Scotland, the extra tax burden on Scots would be greater still."

☐ An equal number of Scots favour independence as favour devolution, according to the latest opinion poll, and over half are prepared to pay more in income tax to allow Scotland to have its own parliament (Gillian Bowditch writes).

A poll conducted for *Scotland on Sunday* newspaper showed 37 per cent of Scots backing independence, while 35 per cent favoured devolution, a difference well within the margin of error for such polls. Nineteen per cent favoured the status quo with 9 per cent undecided. Of those polled, 21 per cent were prepared to pay an extra 3p in the pound or more to secure a Scottish parliament; 30 per cent said they would be prepared to pay up to 2p; 33 per cent said they were not prepared to pay any more income tax.

Trouble in paradise as sun-seekers sue

Continued from page 1

Wales when she wanted to rent a villa. Guests were aghast at the thought of papparazzi spying on them from helicopters.

Lord Sainsbury has a house there and Mr Follett a plot of land. *Hello!* magazine, profiling the socialist author's villa in the South of France, announced admiringly that he was building another home in the West Indies, where his wife was born.

"It is not a conventional hotel," the author once told *The Times*, as he nominated the island as his ideal location for a perfect weekend, "but a series of bungalows dotted all over the island and it has a communal restaurant. It is my favourite hotel in the world. Jumby Bay has a wonderful French chef."

Other club members include Lord Glendyne, the businessman, and Roland Franklin, the financial wizard and former right-hand man of Sir James Goldsmith.

Sixteen club members have bought land on the island to build homes, but even non-resident club members have the right to large discounts at the hotel, estimated at $600 a day. Carmel Tintle, a consultant to the Mariani brothers, argues that the developers have poured in millions of dollars to turn the island into an exclusive retreat, but he says the private club has just failed to attract enough members and should be closed.

"The owners are not trying to short-change anyone," he said. "Arawak [the holding company] wants to dissolve the club, but the residents would continue to have full use of the resort. It would also pay back the membership fee or dues to the others." The refund proposal is due to go to a vote on February 28.

Mr Follett's wife Barbara, founder of Emily's List UK, which aims to help more women to enter Parliament, declined to comment last night at the couple's £2 million mansion in Cheyne Walk, central London, where she was babysitting. "I don't know anything about it," she said.

Lord Glendyne, 68, said he joined the club because Jumby Bay was one of the few places he still liked to take his holidays. "Anyone can go," he said, "if they will have you.

Parents' outrage at school

Continued from page 1

sea. The first inkling of problems for parents came on Thursday when they were told by letter of an important meeting at the school on Saturday afternoon. It was at the meeting that the trust broke the news that the site was being sold for development. Some of the girls from the school at the meeting burst into tears. Kerstin Lewis, headmistress, was said by a teacher to be "too distressed to make any comment".

Parents at the school, where fees are £1,500 a term for day pupils and £3,000 for boarders, were told a deal had been struck with the co-educational Battle Abbey School, a public school five miles away, to take in girls. The 25 teachers at Charters-Ancaster were also invited to apply for posts.

The trust described the move as a "merger" with Battle Abbey School and said a falling roll was the cause, but their arguments were disputed. News of the closure was met by the majority of the pupils, parents and teachers with what was described by some at the meeting as "riotous" dissent. A number of girls protested outside the school with placards.

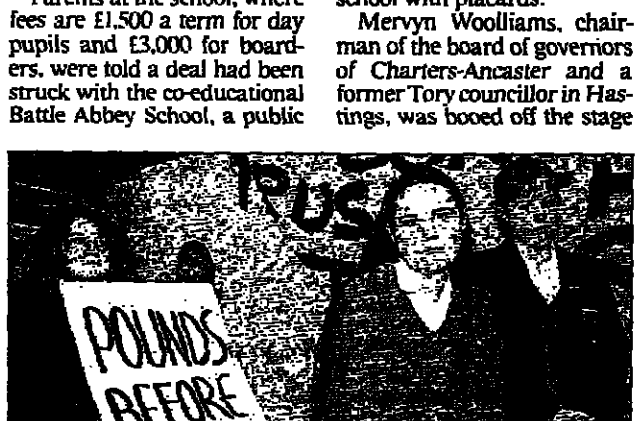
Mervyn Woolliams, chairman of the board of governors of Charters-Ancaster and a former Tory councillor in Hastings, was booed off the stage together with Dr Janet Sondheimer, deputy chairman of the trust, and Michael Oakley, secretary. Mr Woolliams was accused of failing to inform his fellow governors and teachers of any of the negotiations.

Parents later pointed out that Mr Woolliams is a partner in the Bexhill-on-Sea solicitors firm of Fynmores where a fellow partner is John Ball, clerk to the governors of Battle Abbey School.

Dr Peter Greenhalgh, a businessman whose two daughters attend the school, said: "This has all been done without consultation and at such short notice. We are all horrified."

Mr Woolliams said last night at his home near Battle: "It would be wrong of me to make any comment."

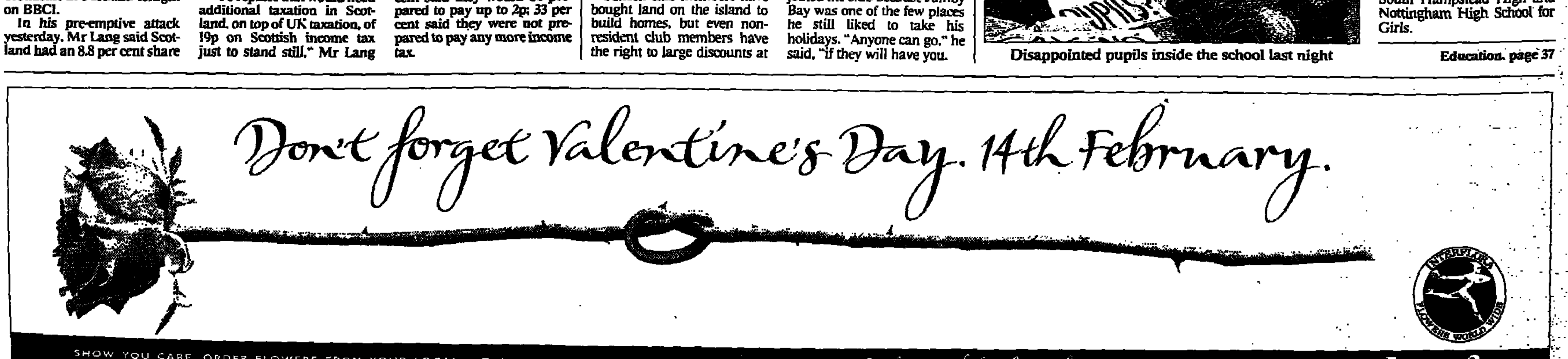
☐ The Girls Public Day School Trust is more than 125 years old and is responsible for the largest group of independent schools in Britain. Among the 26 establishments owned by the trust are several of the most high-powered academic girls' schools, including South Hampstead High and Nottingham High School for Girls.



POUNDS BEFORE PUPILS?

Disappointed pupils inside the school last night

Education, page 37



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Interflora

Trusts say only training and vigilance can beat kidnappers

By Jeremy Laurance
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

TOO little is being done to protect maternity units from potential baby-snatchers looking for hospital wards with poor security, experts say.

Three cases in which babies were snatched from maternity wards occurred last year, including that of Abbie Humphries, who was taken from her father's arms in the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham by a woman posing as a nurse. Abbie was not returned to her parents until three weeks later, after a huge police operation.

Some hospitals in Britain have introduced elaborate security systems involving cameras, code-operated doors and alarms in their maternity units. Joan Rogers, chief executive of Hartlepool General Hospital, Cleveland, which has spent £250,000 — 1 per cent of its budget — on security, said: "By making patients safe we are spending money on care. If people feel secure in a comfortable way it contributes to their care."

However, few hospitals have such extensive security. A survey of 100 maternity units carried out by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts last September found that staff were more concerned about infant abduction than anything else even though the risk was tiny.

The association is to issue guidance in April advising hospitals to upgrade their security but giving warning that technology cannot do the job alone. A determined abductor will evade any system and the key is better training and increased vigilance by both staff and parents, it will say. Jean Trainor, deputy director of the association, said: "We don't want to turn hospitals into prisons. Maternity wards are supposed to be homely, relaxing places but at the same time we have to protect the babies. We probably will have to go in for code-operated locks and swipe cards."

Critics have questioned the spending of large sums of money on security when there were only three abductions from among 800,000 births last year. However, Ms Trainor said effective systems could be installed cheaply. A hospital in Edinburgh is tagging babies with a device that triggers an alarm if they are removed from the unit. The system worked well and cost only £20,000, she said.

Philip Hunt, director of the association, said that if every hospital spent 1 per cent of its budget on security, the total would amount to £200 million. "Obviously, it is a lot of money but the issue is whether the NHS can carry on ignoring security issues."

An American expert on infant abduction, who has visited Britain to advise hospital managers on security, said that the typical baby thief went "window-shopping" in local hospitals to look for the weakest security before acting. "It's a case of making it more difficult," John Rabun, of the US National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said.

Mr Rabun said that the typical abductor was a woman who might have miscarried and appeared pregnant. She was often not living with her partner and had planned the baby "to get him back". When she miscarries she goes in search of another baby.

Two women's calls led the police to abducted baby

By Kate Alderson

TELEPHONE calls to the police from two women ended 23 hours of anguish for the parents of the abducted baby Lydia Owens, who left hospital with her parents yesterday after being pronounced fit and well.

A 39-year-old woman will appear before magistrates at Prestatyn today on charges of abducting Lydia from Glan Clwyd Hospital, near Abergele. Three men who had been helping with inquiries were released without charge.

Lydia was reunited with her parents after two separate calls led police to a rented bungalow in Rhyl on Saturday night. Her parents, Michael Owens, 38, and his wife Christine, 32, smiled and posed for pictures with Meryl Webster, a midwife, as they left the hospital by the same rear exit the abductor is understood to have used when she took Lydia from the maternity unit on Friday night.

Speaking on behalf of the Owens, Liz Choat, a solicitor, said: "The family was delighted that Lydia was found so quickly. They have asked me to pass on their grateful thanks to the police and hospital staff for their support and help and to the press for giving vital publicity." The family was understood to be negotiating a contract for their story with a tabloid newspaper.

Mr and Mrs Owens returned to their flat in Llandudno where family and friends awaited their arrival. The other two children of Mr and Mrs Owens, four-year-old Kathryn and one-year-old Andrew, met their baby sister yesterday for the first time.

Four-day-old Lydia was taken from the Brenig ward of the hospital near Abergele by a lone woman a week before security cameras were due to be installed in the maternity wards.

The abductor took Lydia from the first floor ward when Mrs Owens left the room for a few minutes. She concealed the baby in what is understood to be a floral bag and was able to walk down a flight of stairs at the rear of the hospital and slip away undetected at 8.40pm on Friday. The baby was returned 23 hours later, only two hours after Mrs Owens made a television appeal for the safe return of her child.

> ‘Mrs Owens heard her daughter crying outside the ward before they were reunited. She knew at once that it was her baby’

The bungalow in Rhyl where Lydia was believed to have been held is well-kept and thought to be worth about £45,000. The occupants are understood to have moved in three months ago. David Thomas, a consultant obstetrician at the hospital, told a news conference that the baby had been returned to her mother "safe, well-fed and well-hydrated". He said there had been screams of joy from Mr and Mrs Owens when they were reunited with their daughter.

When asked if the family would have suffered any long-term psychiatric effects as a result of the abduction he replied: "With this particular couple I don't think there will be any major problems. They come from a large, close-knit family who will give them a great deal of support and have a good general practitioner. I think they will come to terms with this very well."

Lydia was brought to the hospital at 7pm on Saturday by police where she was examined by consultants, a registrar and nursing staff who confirmed her identity and declared her fit and healthy. She had lost a little weight, Mr Thomas said, but that was normal for a baby of her age. She was given back to her parents 30 minutes later, Mr Thomas said. "Mrs Owens heard her daughter crying outside the ward before she was reunited," he said. "She knew it was her baby immediately."

Meryl Webster had been of great support to the couple, Mr Thomas said. The nurse had been present during Mrs Owens's Caesarean operation last week and had developed a strong relationship with her. "She also recognised Lydia when she was returned to the ward," he added.

Ian Bellingham, the hospital's director of operational services, said a formal investigation into security within the maternity unit was being conducted after the abduction. Since the abduction of Abbie Humphries from the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham last year, a review of security at the Glan Clwyd Hospital had already been under way. Surveillance cameras had been installed at the hospital, including the two main entrances and in the casualty department. They were due to be installed within a week in the maternity unit.

"The security programme was part of a phased development and we obviously went for the main strategic areas," said Mr Bellingham. "We don't believe security cameras are the total answer to having an impregnable system at the hospital." He said staffing on the maternity unit had been at its normal level on Friday night, and perhaps work had been a little quieter than usual.

Maternity unit staff, who have undergone security awareness training in recent months, had been shaken by the incident, he added.

"The hospital is a public place and we do not believe that any hospital can totally legislate against members of the public who wilfully plan to breach security," he said.

While dozens of detectives were involved in the search for baby Lydia, dozens of media representatives from newspapers and broadcasters descended on the area shortly after news of the abduction broke on Friday night.

In the wake of the abduction of Abbie Humphries, rival tabloid journalists were determined not to be "out-scooped" by each other. A leading tabloid newspaper had 12 staff on the ground, another provided six staff while most others had at least two or three reporters and photographers.

BARRY BATCHELOR

Lydia is handed back to her mother Caroline Owens by Meryl Webster, midwife at the Glan Clwyd hospital

Boy, five, stabbed to death after break-in

By Nicholas Watt
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A POLICE helicopter and tracker dogs were searching last night for a man who stabbed a five-year-old boy to death as he lay in his bed. Police said a man aged 21 was wanted for questioning about the attack, which followed a break-in at a house in Carragh, Co Kildare.

Ciaran Malone was being looked after by his mother and aunt when the killer, wearing a balaclava and armed with a knife, broke into the family home in the hamlet on Saturday night. The man rushed upstairs and stabbed Ciaran as he lay in bed. He then ran downstairs and stabbed the boy's aunt, Patricia Brereton, in the back. She was recovering in hospital yesterday.

The intruder was stopped by Ciaran's father, David, who arrived home at the time of the attack. He pinned the intruder to the ground and asked Patrick Dolly, a neighbour, to watch him as he telephoned for an ambulance. But the man managed to escape through a window.

Mr Dolly, who arrived at the house shortly after the stabbing, tried to save Ciaran. He said: "I ran up the stairs and saw Ciaran lying on the bed but there was nothing I could do." He praised the victim's father for confronting the attacker. "It's a good job David came in when he did or everybody in the house would have been killed."

Chief Superintendent Tony Mulligan, leading the investigation, said he would leave no stone unturned. "We would like to get our hands on this intruder as soon as possible. It was a terrible tragedy in a close-knit community."

Ciaran's mother, Mary, was being comforted by family and friends yesterday. The mood in the village of Carragh was summed up by a local who said: "Nothing like this has ever happened here before. Everyone is shocked by the death of little Ciaran."

The victim was the nephew of Sean Power, the Fianna Fail MP for Kildare. His father, David, is a well known local Gaelic football player.

Mother criticises £12,000 holidays

By A Staff Reporter

THE mother of a handicapped teenager who was sent on Mediterranean holidays that cost £12,000 has criticised social service chiefs for wasting money. Rikki Harle, 15, spent six weeks in Turkey and a fortnight in Corfu accompanied by six social workers who supplied around-the-clock care.

His mother said he did not enjoy the trips and the money should have been spent on helping her to cope with her son. Flights, cars, apartments with swimming pool, food and spending money came to £7,000, while the cost of flying social workers out two at a time to provide 24-hour care cost £5,000.

Social services officials at Newcastle upon Tyne City Council defended the trips and said it would have cost more to send Rikki on holiday in Britain. Rikki, of Newbiggin Hall Estate, Newcastle, has suffered from microcephalic brain disorder since birth and needs constant attention.

Sandie Jones, 41, his mother, whose son Ross, 9, suffers from the same condition, said the money would have been better spent towards a £110,000 package to provide a care team at their home.

Climber missing for third night

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A HILL walker who went missing in Glencoe on Friday in appalling weather was believed to be spending a third night out in the open last night. About 100 mountain rescuers braved blizzards and avalanches for nine hours yesterday but failed to find him.

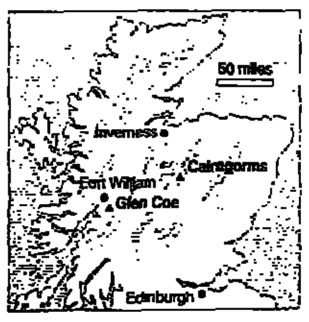
Allan Sands, 24, from Shawlands, Glasgow, had been walking in White Corries, near Glencoe. Experienced mountaineers said no one should have been walking in the Scottish hills at the weekend after warnings were given of severe avalanche activity. Dozens ignored the alert and took to the hills, giving mountain rescue teams one of their busiest weekends of the year.

The two-day search for Mr Sands, which involved Glencoe, Leuchars and Kinloss mountain rescue teams as well as teams from Strathclyde Police and Northern Constabulary, was called off at about 5pm last night. The search will resume at first light.

On Saturday about an inch of snow fell on the mountains, then the temperature dropped. The result was massive avalanches.

Eight climbers were rescued in two separate incidents in the Cairngorms at the weekend. In both cases the victims avoided serious injury because rescuers were on the spot.

In the first incident, Roger Whetton, 47, from Stockport, and Anthony Park, 29, from Sheffield, fell 40ft down a gully. Their fall was witnessed by a mountaineering instructor who raised the alarm. A rescue team from Leuchars, on exercise in the area, managed to get the injured climbers to a newly built rescue hut. They were flown to hospital with minor injuries.



While the rescue was happening the team received word that an avalanche had caught several climbers only ten minutes' walk away. Six climbers were discovered partially buried by the snowfall and were dug out by the rescue team.

Five of the climbers were in hospital last night. They were said to be stable.

Father dies after son is rescued from river

By Helen Johnstone

A FATHER drowned while trying to rescue his four-year-old son from a swollen river yesterday, unaware that the boy had already been saved by his older brothers.

Nicholas Grill, 39, took his three sons to see the flooded River Rother at West Harting, West Sussex, where William lost his footing and slipped into the water. His father, fearing the boy had been swept under a tunnel and towards a weir, was attempting to get close to the tunnel when he fell in and was dragged towards the weir.

He had not realised that William had been pulled to safety by his brothers Jonathan, 10, and Christopher, 7, further along the river.

Christopher rushed to the family's home nearby to alert his mother, who drove to the scene and discovered her husband lying unconscious in the water at the edge of the weir.

She and a neighbour attempted to revive him until paramedics and a doctor arrived, but he died before reaching St Richard's Hospital, Chichester.

Mr Grill was deputy headmaster of Churcher's College, a public school in Petersfield, Hampshire.

Cartland brings true romance to TV

By John Young

Dame Barbara: 13 books to be adapted for screen

THE works of Dame Barbara Cartland, the world's most prolific romantic novelist, are to be brought to television for the first time.

In her 94th year, Dame Barbara, step-grandmother of the Princess of Wales and scourge of the permissive society, has signed an agreement with Working Title Films, the company that made *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, to adapt 13 of her stories in a series of one-hour programmes.

Dame Barbara, the titles of whose books occupy almost a page of *Who's Who?* and are augmented at the rate of about one every fortnight, said yesterday: "It is all very exciting. I am frightfully pleased.

"The Prime Minister and I are trying to get back to morality, back to whatever he calls it — yes, basics, that's right. This everlasting obsession with sex is so bad for children."

The series, provisionally entitled *The Barbara Cartland Theatre of Romance*, is to be made in association with Cartland Film and Television, a company set up specifically for the project by the author and her son, Ian McCorquodale.

Simon Wright, of Working Title Films, said yesterday that all the British television networks were showing interest, and that the idea was also attracting potential buyers in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Only in America was there resistance to the notion of true love and old-fashioned gallantry. "All they seemed to be interested in was stories involving hot porn or saying something nasty about people living or dead." Dame Barbara said.

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BARCLAYS

Howard ridicules Tebbit's warning of lawless Britain

By Alice Thomson, political reporter

LORD TEBBIT'S warning of an apocalyptic future of lawlessness and civil disobedience if Britain is drawn into a federal superstate was ridiculed yesterday by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Addressing the Young Conservative conference in Southport at the weekend, Lord Tebbit, former Tory Party chairman, said the European Union was forcing the British into lawlessness and he suggested that animal rights activists throw bottles and bricks at Belgian police to show their disgust at the European veal trade.

He said Britain was being driven into a situation where laws from Brussels were increasingly considered unjust, laws that "did not have the consent of the British people and were therefore laws without legitimacy which would not need to be obeyed".

The consequences of that inevitable loss of respect for the law would be serious, he said. "What we face now is a vast and unacceptable loss of the right to govern ourselves."

To applause, Lord Tebbit said that under a united Europe Britain would become a subject race like the Chechens in Russia or black South Africans under apartheid. He told the conference on Saturday: "I begin to understand how it was that Nelson Mandela was not able to tell black South Africans that it was their duty to obey the law." Mr Howard dismissed the speech yesterday, saying Lord Tebbit had always had the gift for the dramatic phrase and he was using that gift to its full extent. He gave a warning that whether Britain was in the European Union or not, teenage tearaways would not get away with breaking the law.

Lord Tebbit said that people angry at European interference should turn their wrath on Brussels. "Protesters at Shoreham and Brightlingsea protesting about the veal trade would be better employed going to Brussels and throwing their bottles and bricks not at the unfortunate and kindly Sussex Constabulary but at the Belgian riot police," he said.

"In my view, set in a democratic state where laws may be changed by the democratic process, there can be no hesitation in saying that even unjust laws must be obeyed. But we are perhaps now being driven into a situation in which more and more people will regard the decrees emanating from Brussels as unjust laws, laws that do not have the consent of the British people and were without legitimacy."

Lord Tebbit said respect for the law was already on the decline as a result of European legislation which many Britons regarded as unjust, "odious, obnoxious and unfair".

He was given a three-minute standing ovation for his speech, which destroyed attempts by Jeremy Hanley, the party chairman, and Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee, to create unity in the party on the question of Europe.

Mayhew promises to cherish Union

By Alice Thomson

THE Northern Ireland Secretary pleaded with ardent pro-Unionists at the Young Conservatives conference not to derail the "fragile" peace protest, and said the Government would not "sell them out".

In an effort to calm Unionist fears after the leak to *The Times* of the blueprint of the Anglo-Irish framework document, Sir Patrick Mayhew promised that the people of the Province would soon have their say.

"This Government is not neutral. We cherish the Union because we know the quality of the people, the beauty of the place and the strength of the ties between us," he said. To stony silence, he told the conference "nothing we jointly propose will impinge on the present status of Northern Ireland nor dilute in any way the sovereignity and integrity of the United Kingdom".

Delegates made clear that they felt the Government had already sold out. Pamela Shooter, from southeast London, was cheered as she shouted: "Ulster is British, no surrender."

Graham Montgomery, the chairman of Ulster Young Conservatives, said: "The current policy is a shame on the party."

BARRY GREENWOOD

A Young Conservative with a patriotic tie holds up a placard appealing for the release of Private Lee Clegg

Young Tories put on bold new front

By Our Political Reporter

THE Young Conservatives relaunched *their tarnished* image at the weekend with a *sexy new look that they hope will* take them into the 21st century.

Sick of being branded as hooray Henries or train spotters, they invited the raunchy Ann Summers dance troupe *to gyrate at their disco clad only in black* underwear. The ladies *and gentlemen* of the YCs discarded their taffeta and bow ties for satin bodices and tartan miniskirts. During the day the girls wore red suits and red lipstick and the boys ruffled their centre partings.

The Young Conservatives hate being ridiculed as Thatcher's right-wing children *who want to hang rapists, thrash social workers and tear up the* Maastricht treaty. The Tory hierarchy is so embarrassed by the antics of its young folk that for the first time in 35 years it refused to sponsor the conference. So *the* Young Conservatives have done *it* alone. This weekend they chose rain-drenched Southport to launch their hip new model YC Party.

Unlike their elders, they were deter*mined not to be controversial and went* for a debate on deregulation of *alcohol* licensing rather than Europe. Usually most MPs eshew the conference but the YCs *threatened* by extinction managed to entice five ministers. Paul Clarke, 24, national vice-chairman, *said*: "The MPs, party members and young all rubbish us as boring country toffs but we don't sit around drinking Pimm's. We are trendy, some of us are even unemployed. We are relaunching ourselves and want teenagers to see us as an alternative *night out* to the pub, not oversized Boy Scouts."

Two blonde girls, who led *the* cheering in the front row, were thrilled. Fay Keenan, 17, said: "This has been the best weekend of the year. I don't want to be an MP *but it's a brilliant* way of meeting friends and *having fun*." Underneath the hair dye, the YC product is reassuringly similar. In the end, only about 400 people joined in and they were *mostly in their* 20s and had been coming for years. Their *right*-wing credentials remained impeccable. They cheered Tebbit, their role model is Michael Portillo, and one got up and called for the return of the birch. The bows *pinned* to their lapels are not red Aids ribbons but yellow "free Paratrooper Lee Clegg" bows.

But a visiting constituency agent was appalled. "The Young Conservatives should be going for young accountants, solicitors and businessmen who want to meet other bright uncomplicated young *kids* and who have read the Tory word in *the executive dining rooms* and golf clubs. Otherwise the YCs will be extinct before the 21st century," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trader in vandalism attack dies

An elderly shopkeeper who died after confronting youths he suspected of smashing his window suffered a massive heart attack, police said. Ernie Ayres, 66, rushed out of his greengrocers in Newton Abbot, Devon, after a plate-glass window was smashed.

He confronted three youths who denied breaking the glass and after checking a garage and a pub Mr Ayres went home but collapsed as he telephoned the police.

Knife victim

Darren Parker, 23, died after being stabbed in an alley in Sydenham, southeast London. The solicitor's clerk, from Catford, suffered a single stab wound in a scuffle.

Race group row

The Campaign for Racial Justice has described as astonishing a racial equality group set up by Cambridgeshire County Council that is made up entirely of white people.

Harsh lesson

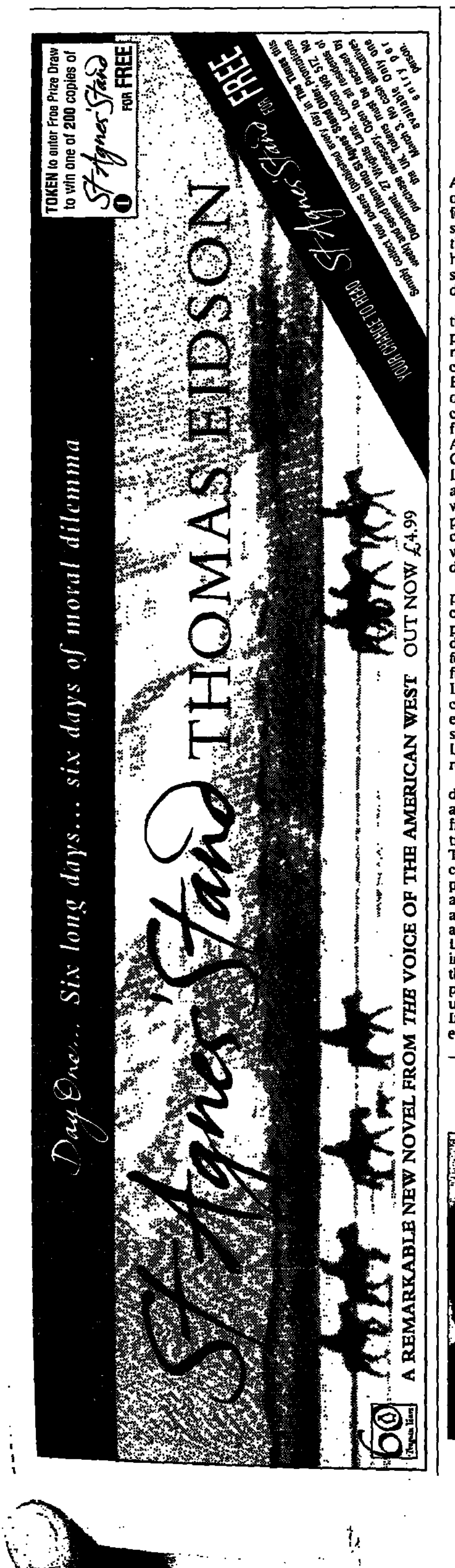
The infants block of St Mary's Primary School, Flint, Clwyd, has been gutted in a blaze just before the start of the school's fire safety week. The cause is under investigation.

Police scrambled

Police officers in Nottinghamshire have been equipped with personal radios which scramble messages and make them unintelligible to anyone listening covertly.

The Sun rises

The price of *The Sun* is increased by 1p to 23p from today. A spokesman said the increased cost of newsprint had prompted the rise.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Lonely hearts can lose a fortune when they play the dating game

By Emma Wilkins

AS SINGLE people throughout Britain brace themselves for Valentine's Day tomorrow, some will be tempted to join the growing number of lonely hearts who seek companionship and romance through dating agencies.

The boom in the introduction agency business over the past 15 years means there are now around 90,000 clients compared with 50,000 in 1980. But while many are satisfied, others find the whole process can lead to both romantic and financial disappointment. After the collapse last year of Companions Introductions Ltd, one of Britain's largest agencies, 2,000 lonely hearts were left unhappy and out of pocket. The company, which charged fees of up to £1,400, went into liquidation with debts of £1 million.

Since the closure of Companions, another dating agency which sought professional people has found itself in difficulties, leaving a trail of former clients demanding refunds of their joining fees. By Invitation Only Limited charged clients up to £1,000 each for one-to-one dates and social evenings at some of London's most exclusive restaurants.

The company, one of whose directors was Andrew Benson, a 45-year-old businessman from east London, ceased to trade in September last year. The Official Receiver was called in last month to its parent company, called Make-a-Date Ltd. A new dating agency has taken over the assets of By Invitation Only Limited, including its offices in central London, but none of the liabilities. The new company, called Keywish Ltd, is using the trading name By Invitation Only but is considering changing to a different name to avoid confusion. There is no suggestion that Keywish Ltd is responsible for any earlier problems experienced by Mr Benson's clients.

Former members of By Invitation Only share a list of grievances, with many complaining that their initial interviews, lasting two hours, were too long. Others claim that they did not receive membership lists and some said group dinner and drinks parties were cancelled at short notice. Westminster Trading Standards officers have begun an investigation after receiving complaints from former clients. Mr Benson, who has now left the dating agency business to pursue film-making interests, denied that a two-hour interview put unfair pressure on potential clients.

"I always wanted to provide the best service in the world. It wasn't like a timeshare. Interviews of two to three hours are fair and average," he said. When asked why some clients had not received their social calendars, Mr Benson said it must have been a mistake. "That must be a clerical error — that's unfortunate." Mr Benson, whose business partner was his girlfriend Helen Wayne, admitted he had a "moral responsibility" to his disappointed customers. "I feel sorry for some of them," he said.

"Helen and I went through months of hell in the office, trying to sort out the problems. We put a lot of our resources into trying to save the business. It would have been peaceful and easy to just close the business down, but we fought to get it right," he said. Mr Benson claimed that his business problems stemmed from an internal company dispute.

The Association of British Introduction Agencies, which was formed in 1981 to represent the industry, recommends that prospective clients should first consult its own membership list of 40 agencies. "One of the big problems in the business is that anyone can set up a dating agency and does not need a licence," Frances Pine, of the association, said. "Our job is to protect the public just like any other trade association. Unfortunately, there are a few agencies which do a great disservice to the many excellent ones."

Many lonely hearts are too embarrassed to complain if they are dissatisfied, one of the industry's most experienced directors said. Mary Balfour, who runs her own agency called Drawing Down the Moon, said: "Despite the fact that more people than ever are using agencies, many are still bashful when it comes to making complaints."

☐ *Divorces*, a magazine for divorced, separated and single people, is launched today. John Griffiths, the publisher, said: "This is the fastest-growing sector in the UK."

CASE STUDIES

Clients of By Invitation Only Limited:

☐ A woman of 43 joined in August 1993 and paid £900 on Barclaycard after a two-hour interview. She was ap*palled by the dates* arranged for her. She said: "*I met one* man who earned a quarter of my salary, had never been abroad and was totally incompatible with me." Among the interests she listed were *keeping fit* and *team sports*. "The next date was with a man who was so overweight that *he could* hardly get up the stairs. He had *no interest* in sport or exercise," she said.

☐ A 40-year-old woman, recently separated from her husband, joined in June last year and paid £675 on her credit card. She was promised a minimum of eight contacts for her money plus a social calendar of dinners and parties to be sent out monthly. "I became concerned because I had to badger them for the social calendar," she said. She made an appointment to see Mr Benson in October. "He told me the company had been taken over and they had staff problems." She has since managed to claim back her money from her credit card company.

☐ A civil servant, 40, whose wife died four years ago, joined in July last year, paying £299 by cheque.

***"They sent me a contact list and I met one person."* The date was a success, but did not lead to romance so he telephoned to arrange further meetings. "They said they had run into company problems. From then on I received no more contact lists."**

☐ A self-employed businessman, paid £970 to join in April last year and was satis*fied with the service for a few months. He telephoned the* company's offices in November to arrange a date, but was told that the company had been taken over. The man, who claims he did not receive value for his £970, is now demanding a part-refund. Since the new company is not responsible for the former company's liabilities, it is not bound to offer refunds.

Rogers condemns short-termism of urban planners

By Lin Jenkins

CITY planning is too important to be left to the short-term financial imperatives of developers and should be a democratic process, the architect Sir Richard Rogers said yesterday.

Areas for the rich and poor had become polarised, and industry, business and housing segregated into ghettos. "We are witnessing the destruction of the very idea of the city. The emphasis is now on selfishness and separation rather than on contact and community," he said. The challenge was to "break with a system which treats technology and finance as a route to short-term profit rather than as a means *to social and* environmental ends".

Sir Richard: extolled value of sustainability

Delivering the first of his *Reith Lectures* on Radio 4 about the environmental dilemma faced by cities struggling to house half our population, Sir Richard called for greater intervention and outlined his philosophy of "sustainability" as an ethical approach to planning.

He said cities that were now failing to provide the most basic of society's needs could create a healthy and civilising environment. "The ultimate aim of sustainable economic development is to leave to future generations a stock of environmental wealth or natural capital which equals or exceeds our own inheritance," he said, adding that nowhere was the implementation of such *sustainability* more relevant than within the city.

"In fact, I believe environmental sustainability needs to become the guiding law of modern urban design — an innovation that could have an impact on the 21st-century city as radical as the industrial revolution had on its 19th-century counterpart."

Sir Richard, who designed the Lloyd's building in the City of London and the Pompidou Centre in Paris, said planners tended to design cities to meet private material needs rather than to foster public life. Open and public spaces were encroached upon and reduced to a point where they engendered fear and promoted migration to the suburbs.

However, if cities were where life was *often at its* most precarious, they were also where there was the best *opportunity* for improvement and intervention. Sir Richard called for children to be educated in citizenship through the national curriculum as a first stage to involving the community in decision-making, which would transform the fabric and environment of cities.

☐ The lecture was the first of five on BBC Radio 4 on Sunday at 7.30pm.

Wilde given a window on to Poets' Corner

Wilde: stage stars will perform at service

By Jim McCue

WESTMINSTER ABBEY will admit the name of Oscar Wilde to Poets' Corner tomorrow, 100 years to the day after the opening of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. At a service open to the public, a window will be unveiled and Seamus Heaney will deliver an address. Dame Judi Dench and Michael Denison will play "the handbag scene", and Sir John Gielgud will read from *De Profundis*.

When Wilde's "Trivial Comedy for Serious People" opened at St James's Theatre in 1895, *An Ideal Husband* had been running for little over a month, but a new work was needed in a hurry to replace Henry James's *Guy Domville*, which had proved a flop.

The Importance was written in four acts, but George Alexander, the actor-manager, reduced it to three to accommodate a curtain-raiser. At rehearsals, where he made a stream of interruptions, Wilde remarked: "Yes, it is quite a good play. I remember I wrote one very like it myself, but it was even more brilliant than this." (The typescript of the longer version was rediscovered in the 1950s).

Theatregoers, too, thought the piece brilliant. The first-night audience "rose in their seats and cheered and cheered again". *The Times* noted that "the author was called and applauded". H.G. Wells wrote in *The Pall Mall Gazette*: "Mr Oscar Wilde has decorated a humour that is Gilbertian with innumerable spangles of that wit that is all his own." And A. B. Walkley was perceptive in *The Speaker*: "It is of nonsense all compact, and better nonsense, I think, our stage has not seen." Other reviews were snootier. "The public taste for 'Oscarisms' is not likely to be a lasting one," declared the less enduring *Truth*, whose critic was reluctant "to discuss the true inwardness of a *soufflé*". George Bernard Shaw's notice expressed a more telling complaint, about the comedy being relentless but heartless: "I go to the theatre to be moved to laughter, not be to tickled or bustled into it."

Max Beerbohm, who is alluded to in the play as "Maxbohm", wrote on a previous centenary, that of Wilde's birth, in 1954, about "the delight of hearing Oscar Wilde talk": "That his talk was mostly monologue was not his own fault. Nobody was willing to interrupt the music of so magnificent a virtuoso. To have heard him consoles me for not having heard Dr Johnson or Edmund Burke, Lord Brougham or Sydney Smith."

To hear Wilde's highest and lowest notes sounded in Westminster Abbey will be some consolation for not having heard his *talk*.

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Courts 'powerless' to enforce new penalty on parents

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

NEW powers brought in last week to make parents ensure their young offenders comply with community sentences are likely to be widely flouted because courts are powerless to punish parents who fail to co-operate.

The controversial powers came into force under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 despite warnings from the Magistrates' Asssociation that they were defective. They give courts the power to bind over parents or guardians where youngsters fail to comply with community sentences such as supervision orders.

Courts already have powers to bind over parents if a child reoffends. The new powers allow courts to make parents forfeit money where the youngster has not reoffended but has failed to comply with a community service sentence. If parents refuse to be bound over they can be fined up to £1,000. The Magistrates' Association has told the Home Office that there is no mechanism to enforce the new procedures.

Rosemary Thomson, its chairman, said: "The court making the bind over is the youth court, and there is no way of bringing back an adult to a youth court. In effect it renders the courts powerless to make credible use of the new powers."

She said the association had arranged another meeting with Home Office officials but had been in discussion with them for over a year about the defects. "We simply want them to agree some kind of mechanism by which parents who are bound over, and who are subsequently in breach, can be dealt with by the adult courts. They have not got this into their heads."

The new provisions have also been attacked by the Penal Affairs Consortium, an umbrella body representing 24 main groups in the criminal justice system. It has said that punishing the parents of young offenders for their children's actions is likely to increase rather than reduce the problems which promote delinquency.

In a report published to coincide with the launch of the new powers, the consortium said that fining and binding over parents was "likely to produce injustice and to place struggling families under even greater stress". It would also add to the financial pressures and hardship on families already struggling to survive.

Frances Crook, director of the Howard League, said: "It is not possible to punish people into being responsible and caring parents." There was, she said, a strong link between chaotic family backgrounds, poverty and the descent into juvenile criminality. Instead of punishing failing parents, resources should be diverted towards promoting the skills of parenthood.

David Bull and his wife Angela, heading for Monte Carlo in their 1952 Hillman Minx Convertible, stop in the New Forest to consult the map

Steel wheels while away miles to Monte Carlo

THE former Liberal leader Sir David Steel was among 61 UK drivers setting off yesterday from Bristol on the Monte Carlo Challenge.

Sir David, 56, competing in his fourth consecutive event, in a 1966 Rover Mark 3 with his navigator Andre Tarres, said: "It is a passion of mine which is a real change from the tension of politics. The sleepless nights of driving are the worst part, but all-night sittings are pretty good training. The journey across the Alps should be easier this year because we've got a heater. I've been practising wheel changes, and I'm down to two-and-a-half minutes."

Thousands of classic car enthusiasts lined the city's streets yesterday as drivers set out from the British start point. Other teams have set out from five points across the Continent. Cars must not exceed an average of 30mph over each stage and are due to arrive in Monte Carlo on Thursday.

Derek Skinner, of Spencers Wood, Berkshire, was confident his 1958 Austin A35 would see him through on time. Mr Skinner, 59, said: "It is everyone's dream to compete in the Monte Carlo rally — this is the most exciting thing I have ever done. Older cars were built to be more reliable and we will get there in the end."

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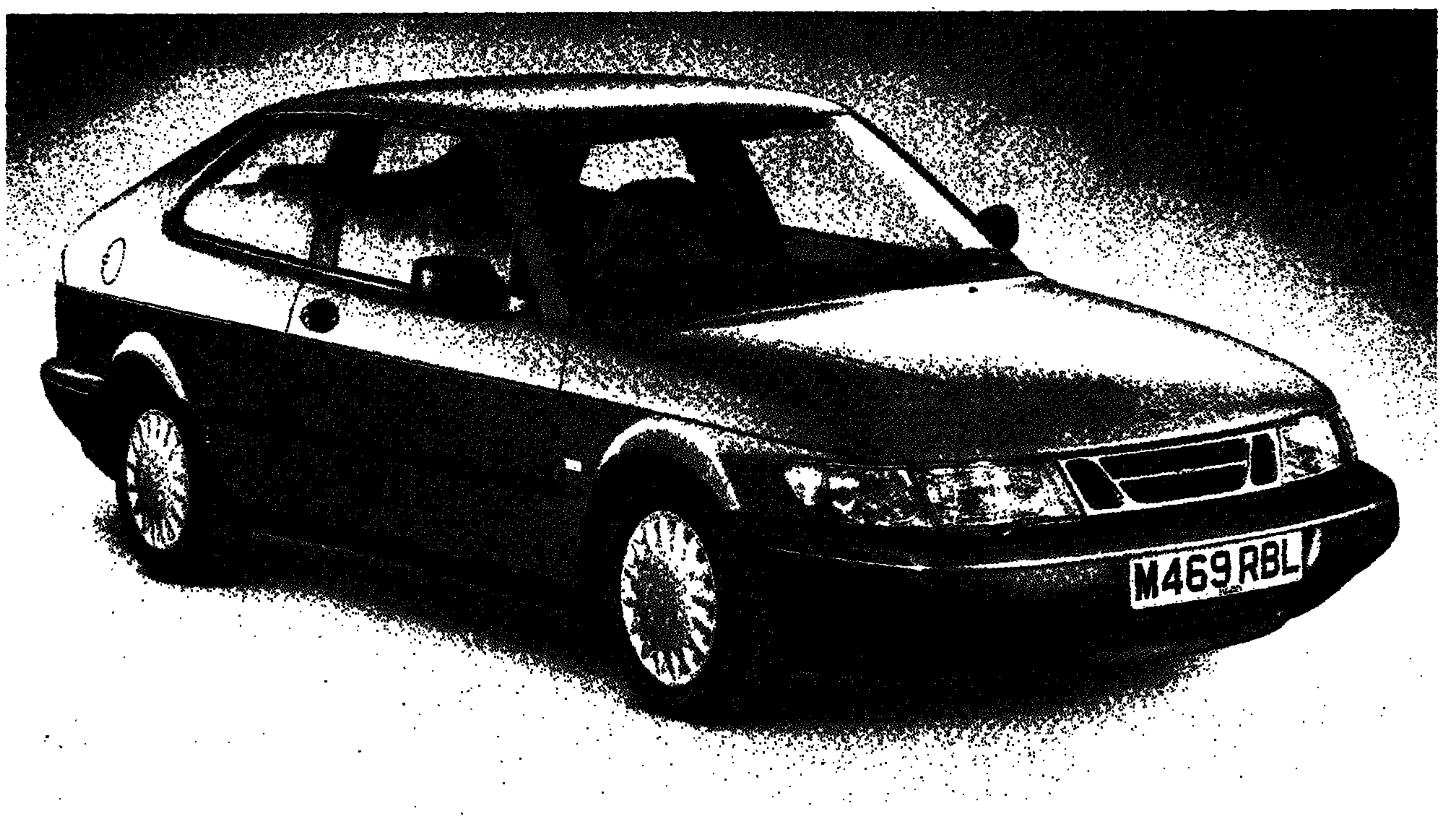

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer North **Game all**

North:
♠K J 8 3 2
♥A 8 6 2
♦Q 7
♣K 7

West:
♠9 7 5 4
♥Q 10 9
♦J 10 9
♣Q 10 4

East:
♠Q 6
♥J
♦K 5 4 2
♣J 9 8 5 3 2

South:
♠A 10
♥K 9 7 4 3
♦A 8 6 3
♣A 6

W	N	E	S
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥
All pass			

Contract: Six Hearts by South. Opening lead: ♦J

By Robert Sheehan
Bridge correspondent

North's raise of his partner's suit to game was aggressive but his fourth trump tipped the balance. South jumped directly to the slam — he knew there were sufficient aces for a small slam so there was no reason to use Blackwood.

The opening lead was covered by the queen, king and ace. How should the declarer continue?

Answer: If trumps are 2-2 there is no problem (two spade tricks, five hearts, ace of diamonds and two diamond ruffs, and two top clubs). So you have to consider how to play if trumps are 3-1. In that case the declarer has to be able to make five spade tricks to get rid of all his three diamond losers, with the additional proviso that the player with the master trump has to follow to four rounds of spades — otherwise he will be able to ruff in and cash a diamond.

If East holds the three trumps, after playing two top trumps, declarer has to cash the ace and king of spades, playing West for queen, nine doubleton. If West holds the three trumps, the only chance is to find him with four small spades. But the extra wrinkle is that South must be in dummy when he finds this out.

The correct line is thus king then ace of hearts, and when East shows out play a spade to the ten, cash the ace of spades, cross to dummy's king of clubs and continue spades, discarding diamonds from hand as West follows helplessly.

KEENE on CHESS

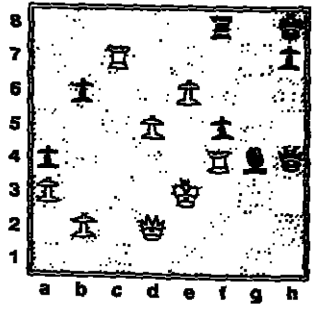
By Raymond Keene
Chess correspondent

Fide semi-finals

White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Boris Gelfand
Sanghi Nagar, Game 4
Grunfeld Defence

	White	Black
1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	g3	c6
4	Bg2	d5
5	cxd5	cxd5
6	Nf3	Bg7
7	Ne5	0-0
8	Nc3	e6
9	0-0	Nfd7
10	f4	Nc6
11	Be3	f6
12	Nf3	Nb6
13	Bf2	Bd7
14	e4	dxe4
15	Nxe4	Nd5
16	Re1	b6
17	Nc3	Nce7
18	Qb3	a5
19	a3	a4
20	Qd1	Nc7
21	Rc1	Ned5
22	Nd2	Re8
23	Nc4	Bf8
24	Ne4	Bb5
25	Re2	Be7
26	Rec2	Rb8
27	Qd2	Rf8
28	h4	Ne8
29	Ne3	Ng7
30	Nc3	Nxc3
31	Rxc3	g5
32	hxg5	fxg5
33	Ng4	gxf4
34	gxf4	Bd6
35	Rf3	Be8
36	Ne5	Nf5
37	d5	Bxe5
38	fxe5	Rb7
39	Kh2	Rg7
40	Bh3	Bh5
41	Rf4	Kh8
42	Bxf5	exf5
43	Bh4	Qe8
44	Bf6	Bg4
45	Bxg7+	Kxg7
46	Rc7+	Kh8
47	e6	Qh5+
48	Kg1	Qg5
49	Kf2	Qh4+
50	Ke3	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Gata Kamsky
Black: Valery Salov
Sanghi Nagar, Game 3, February 1995

Queen's Gambit Declined

	White	Black
1	d4	d5
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Be7
4	Nf3	Nf6
5	Bg5	h6
6	Bh4	Nbd7
7	e3	0-0
8	Rc1	c6
9	Bd3	dxc4
10	Bxc4	b5
11	Bd3	a6
12	a4	bxa4
13	Nxa4	Qa5+
14	Nd2	Bb4
15	Nc3	c5
16	Nb3	Qd8
17	0-0	cxd4
18	Nxd4	Bb7
19	Be4	Qb8
20	Nc6	Bxc6
21	Bxc6	Ra7
22	Bg3	Ne5
23	Qd4	Bd6
24	Ne4	Nxc6
25	Nxd6+	gxf6
26	Rxc6	Be5
27	Qg4+	Kh7
28	Qe4+	Kg7
29	f4	Bc7
30	Be1	Qb5
31	Rf3	Rd8
32	Rg3+	Kh8
33	h3	Qd5
34	Qc2	Bd6
35	e4	Black resigns

Winning Move, page 44

هكذا من الأصل

Britain 'unable to fight killer viruses'

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN would be ill-equipped to deal with the arrival of deadly animal-borne viruses from Africa or Asia, a leading expert claims today.

Professor David Bishop, director of the Institute of Virology and Environmental Microbiology at Oxford, says that some viruses are so easily spread and so lethal that they should be treated with the same concern as the plague was centuries ago.

The Ebola and Marburg viruses, among the most dangerous known, have already been carried to Germany and America with consignments of animals. Some strains can be transmitted in the air, by bite, or by contact with body fluids. They affect virtually every organ in the body, turning tissues into a highly infectious mush, and are extremely difficult to control.

"Human fatality rates with these strains have ranged between 30 per cent and 88 per cent," Professor Bishop writes in the *SGM Quarterly*, the journal of the Society for General Microbiology. "There are no vaccines, and no therapies."

When a strain of the Ebola virus was identified in research monkeys at Reston, Virginia, in 1989, extreme measures were taken to control it. The laboratory was sealed and all the monkeys destroyed by workers wearing special suits to protect them from contamination.

Professor Bishop questions whether the problem would have been identified so promptly or dealt with so proficiently in Britain. "The major issue is how one can be sure that wild animals imported into Britain have been properly screened," he says. "At present they can pass through London airport and into RSPCA facilities, all leading to potential exposure."

No British laboratory is studying these viruses, Professor Bishop says, and only one has the necessary containment facilities for doing so — at Porton Down, near Salisbury. He says the ideal answer would be to test and quarantine animals at their source, to ensure they were free of infection before they travelled.

'Condemning people for sins is not the way I would want to go about it'

Carey rejects attack by archdeacon on church leadership

By Ruth Gledhill, religion correspondent

Carey: relationship with royals is deeply personal and cannot be broadcast

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has fiercely rejected allegations by the Archdeacon of York, the Ven George Austin, that the Church had "flaccid moral leadership". Dr Carey accused the archdeacon of "megaphone diplomacy or megaphone theology".

In one of his strongest statements yet against a fellow cleric, Dr Carey yesterday condemned Mr Austin's attack as "slight and superficial". Referring to the archdeacon's claim that no bishops spoke out after the recent Dimbleby programme on the Prince of Wales, Dr Carey gave the clearest indication yet of the extent of his behind-the-scenes work with the Royal Family.

Dr Carey, speaking to Mike Wooldridge on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday*, said: "What he [Mr Austin] cannot know, and perhaps hasn't attempted to find out, is that there are people such as myself, close enough to the Royal Family, giving guidance and leadership, but doing it in a pastoral way which of course cannot be broadcast. It is simply that kind of relationship which is deeply personal. Now we have to recognise that there are different levels through which the Christian faith is communicated but preaching through the headlines and condemning people for sins, so-called sins done, is certainly not the way I would want to go about it."

In his book *Affairs of the State*, published yesterday by Hodder & Stoughton, Mr Austin says none of the bishops would speak out after the Dimbleby programme, "probably on instructions from on high". In fact, church leaders who did speak out at the time included the Bishops of Wakefield, Bradford, Blackburn, Carlisle and Bath and Wells. The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, condemned adultery as wrong, and Dr Carey spoke on national radio about the Christian gospel of repentance, unconditional love and forgiveness.

Austin: accused bishops of keeping quiet

In his book Mr Austin says: "Woe betide a church leader who does make a moral statement, be it against political behaviour or royal misdemeanours. And the greater denunciation of the spokesman who steps out of line will come not from the State, but from the Church itself." Dr Carey, who is in Delhi, said: "I know George Austin, and like him as a man. I have to say that this is a very slight and superficial book of less than 150 pages, in which he makes judgments in which I simply do not recognise the Church of England.

"He has only got to look at utterances which I and the Archbishop of York and many leaders have made on morality and ethics in recent years to know that we are speaking out on so many different things and this has been welcomed by so many different people.

"I simply do not recognise the Church he describes. The character of Anglicanism, the character of the Church of England, is its ability to put up with difference and to tolerate one another."

Researchers back the creative spirit

By Jeremy Laurance, health services correspondent

TAKING a glass of wine or a nip of whisky won't aid your creativity, but thinking about it will, according to American psychologists.

Despite Ernest Hemingway's assertion that good writers are drinking writers, researchers have found that alcohol is of no help to the "ordinary" budding artist. Intoxication dulls the senses and impairs judgment, they say. But belief in the power of alcohol to unlock the creative impulse is so widespread that people fooled into thinking they have had a drink do show greater artistic ability.

In an experiment that will help bibulous writers save their livers as well as their wallets, psychologists have shown that belief in the power of a drug can be stronger than the drug itself. Scientists at the Research Institute on Addictions, Buffalo, New York, studied 116 men aged between 21 and 35, all of whom were moderate drinkers, to see what effect alcohol would have on their capacity to perform a "creative" task.

They were given tonic water or tonic water mixed with varying amounts of vodka, but not told which, and asked to sort picture cards of wildflowers into aesthetically pleasing groups. Those who had drunk the alcohol scored no higher than those who had drunk plain tonic water.

However, those who *believed* they had drunk alcohol, even if they were mistaken, performed significantly better than those who thought they had been given plain tonic. The psychologists say their results "support the idea that creative people probably gain inspiration from consuming alcohol". However, they add that this "may be due to the expected rather than the pharmacological effects".

THE TIMES

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Man dies after freak fall in air pressure

By A Staff Reporter

A MAN died from suffocation after freak weather conditions caused a drop in air pressure which sucked carbon dioxide from old mine workings.

Don Tollett, 60, of Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, was walking through the Karva Woodcrafts factory unit at Widdrington Station, Northumberland, on Saturday, on his way to feed his niece's horse, accompanied by a family friend, David Wind, 8, and a pet dog. Mr Tollett and the dog collapsed and David ran to get help.

David's mother Lesley Wind, 36, and her friend, Don's brother Eric, who owns the factory, dashed over to help but they too were overcome by the fumes. They were dragged out by a worker at the factory who was alerted by the lights. Don had been staying the weekend with Eric at his cottage next to the factory.

Eric Tollett and Lesley Wind were yesterday both said to be satisfactory in Wansbeck Hospital, Ashington, recovering from the effects of the "stythe".

An environmental health officer, Gordon Corbett, said: "Normally the ground 'breathes' as air pressure rises and falls. But when there is a sudden drop, gases are pushed to the surface and released into the air. In this area there are many old mine workings and carbon dioxide can be released from them when there is a sudden pressure drop. It pushes out breathable air."

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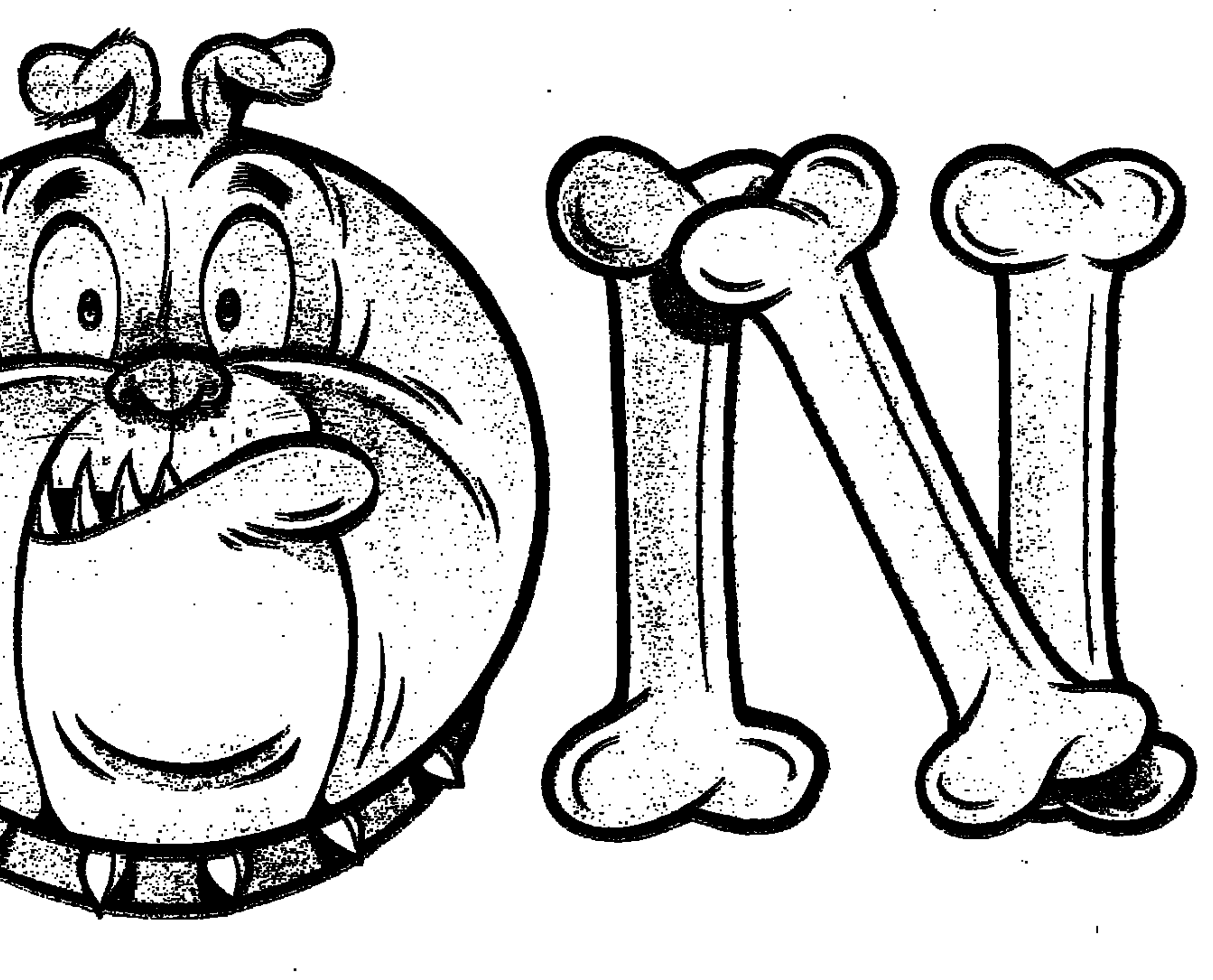

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LONDON ELECTRICITY

'The destruction remains a query against Allied bombing'

■ As part of an occasional series leading up to the VE-Day commemorations in May, Alan Hamilton looks at how death came to Dresden

THERE are those who have claimed the bombing of Dresden as the greatest single night's slaughter in the history of Europe. Today, on its 50th anniversary, the debate continues over whether one of the most terrible air raids inflicted on a civilian population was a justifiable act of total war or a heinous and unnecessary crime.

On the night of February 13, 1945, a swarm of 786 British heavy bombers, flying in two waves three hours apart, took off from eastern England and flew one of the deepest missions yet attempted into the heart of Germany. They dropped 2,647 tons of bombs, including 650,000 incendiaries, on the hitherto largely undamaged city of Dresden, magnificent baroque capital of Saxony.

The effect was awesome. The incendiaries created a firestorm that covered 12 square miles, could be seen by bomber crews 200 miles away, and reduced the city, once known for its superb architecture as the Florence of the Elbe, to a smoking ruin that burnt for seven days and nights. Next day, lest any stone be left standing, 316 American bombers attacked the city again, and a further 211 on the day after that. Squads from the SS Department of Death, sent in to bury the dead, recorded some 20,000 bodies, until the task overwhelmed them and they gave up counting. Witnesses spoke of many thousands more being bulldozed into mass graves, and yet more being burnt in huge funeral pyres in the city square to prevent a typhus epidemic.

Revisionist historians in the 1960s settled for a death toll of 135,000, far greater than that from the week-long destruction of Hamburg and more than double the number who died instantly at Hiroshima. But recent research has attempted greatly to diminish such claims; Friedrich Reichert, the latest German historian to investigate the episode, puts the death toll at nearer 25,000, with 21,200 registered as buried in Dresden cemetery, another 2,000 buried elsewhere, and a further 2,000 subsequently exhumed from the rubble.

The truth can never be known, although the Death Department claimed to have recovered and catalogued 37,000 wedding rings from the ashes. Such was the heat in the cellars beneath the roaring inferno above that many may have perished without trace. Dresden's population of 650,000 was swollen that night to double by a great tide of refugees escaping from the advancing Red Army 70 miles to the east.

What is beyond doubt is that Dresden was a jewel of a city, a fount of art, architecture and music. Handel, Mozart, Weber, Chopin, Schumann and Bach all enjoyed its ambience. Its Frauenkirche was one of Europe's finest baroque cathedrals, and it had many more majestic buildings. What it did not have was any significant concentration of strategic industries, although it was an important railway centre for movements to and from the eastern front.

By February 1945, the war was going well for the Allies, with the Russians at the Oder and the British and Americans fast approaching the Rhine. But victory was not yet assured. Ten days before the raid Churchill went to Yalta where General Antonov, deputy chief of staff of the Red Army, suggested that strategic bombing by the Allies would greatly assist the Soviet advance westward; he made no specific mention of Dresden. But his request was enough for the Allied commanders to dust down Operation Thunderclap, a plan to bring Germany to its knees by sustained terror bombing of Berlin and other cities.

Churchill: horrified by bombing of Dresden

The war cabinet approved, and Sir Arthur Harris prepared Bomber Command for what was to be the most successful bombing raid of the war, delivering mass destruction with the lightest of casualties. Harris, who ended the war embittered at the lack of recognition for himself and Bomber Command and who departed to live in South Africa, wrote of the raid: "I know that the destruction of so large and splendid a city at this late stage of the war was considered unnecessary even by a good many people who admit that our earlier attacks were as fully justified as any other operation of the war. I will only say that the attack on Dresden was at the time considered a military necessity by much more important people than myself."

The firestorm was no accident either. Harris and his crews had seen their effects in previous raids on Hamburg and Kassel, and well appreciated the effectiveness of overwhelming the local firefighters.

Churchill, who had approved the raid, was horrified by its result and tried to distance himself from it. In a memorandum to Lord Ismay on March 28 he wrote: "The moment has come when the bombing of German cities simply for the sake of increasing the terror, though under other pretexts, should be reviewed. The destruction of Dresden remains a serious query against the conduct of Allied bombing."

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Leading article, page 19
Neo-Nazis arrested, page 1

Cowering in our cellars, we died a thousand times

THE VICTIMS

NO METAPHOR of hell can fully describe the firestorm that consumed the centre of Dresden in a night of unimaginable horror.

Countless thousands of citizens cowered in packed cellars, petrified with fright. Those who did not perish beneath falling masonry died from asphyxiation: others burnt to death in temperatures of 1,000C that melted aluminium saucepans into shapeless drips of metal.

The first raid created the myriad fires that took hold over 12 square miles. As the hot air rose, fresh oxygen-rich gales swept in from the edges as if driven by bellows to a forge. Survivors told of a noise like a thundering waterfall; the roar was of the artificial tornado created by the flames.

Trees were plucked from the earth, telegraph poles snapped like matchsticks, rescuers were sucked into the inferno. Flames 30 feet long licked the streets, incinerating everything in their path. The firefighters were helpless.

Erika Dienel, who subsequently married an Englishman and has lived in London for more than 40 years, was a 20-year-old clerk in the Dresden air-raid warning centre when the sirens sounded at 10pm on Shrove Tuesday night. A few hours before, the streets had been filled with children in carnival costume celebrating the last day before Lent.

"We heard on the local radio that many aircraft were heading for Dresden. We were just going down to our cellar when we saw the whole town become floodlit with what we called Christmas trees — flares ready for the arrival of the bombers. At 10.15 the first bombs came down on us.

"One detonation after another shook the house, a strong four-storey building. The all-clear came after about half an hour. Thanking God that we had been spared, we all went upstairs and started to clear up."

What they saw was a city ablaze, the greedy flames approaching ever nearer their house. Then, at 1.30, came the second raid. "We went back down to the cellar, and more and more people rushed in. Each time the whistling noise of a heavy bomb came nearer we expected it would hit us. Some began to pray; others were numb with fear. It seemed endless; we died a thousand times.

"Then, all of a sudden, a tremendous bang shook us and we could hear the sizzling noise of fire. The smell of burning filled our nostrils; it was one of those dreadful petrol-filled bombs, and it had set our house on fire. Smoke filled the cellar. The staircase to safety was on fire. In that terrible panic, with more than 80 people crammed into the tiny space, one man — an air raid warden — saved us from certain death by promising to find us a way out."

He led his party through a labyrinth of catacombs, negotiating narrow holes knocked through the dividing walls as the city burnt above. The heat was almost unbearable but they made it to the open air, emerging at the banks of the River Elbe. Buildings collapsed around them and, had the river not been so close, the fire would have caught their hair and clothes, turning them into human candles.

"Dresden was a mass of flames. People, burning like torches, were jumping into the river on this cold February night. I could hear screams and cries for help everywhere. We started to walk along the embankment towards a relative's house on the outskirts. Every building we passed stood in flames; under our feet there were bodies, nothing but bodies. Across the Elbe, even the hospital was burning, and I thought, 'Has nothing been spared this horror?'"

But Dresden's suffering was not yet over. With daylight came the Americans, bombing the ruins lest anything should be left standing while their Mustang fighters machine-gunned the endless, aimless columns of refugees, troops and homeless citizens making their way along the river banks.

Erika Dienel threw herself to the ground as the attackers returned. "This was the third raid in 14 hours; I never knew what hate was until that moment."

Babies brought breath of life to city's carnage

From Roger Boyes in Dresden

THE SURVIVORS

TO BE 50 in Dresden is to be both blessed and branded by history. Today 20 "firebomb babies" will be celebrating their birthday — children born between the RAF raids, in cellars and crypts as the flames crept closer.

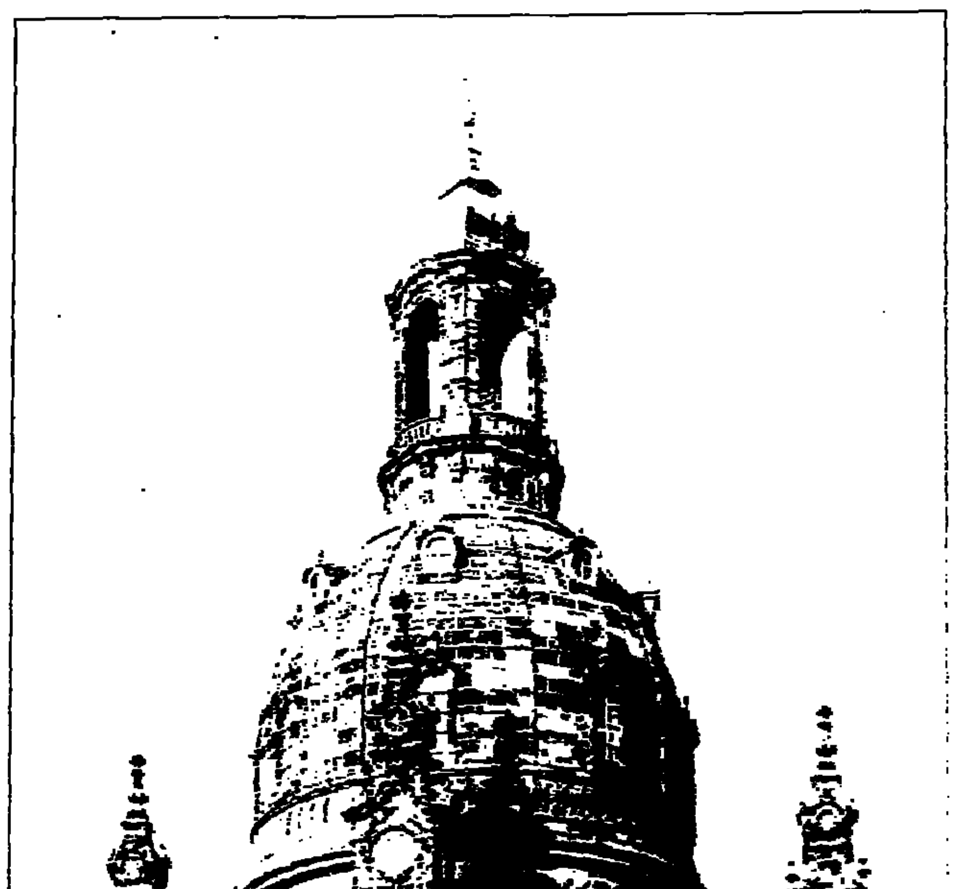
The 13th came in the midst of the carnival season, an occasion for modest costume parties. Eberhard Grundmann's father was playing cards at the pub when he was told to return home as his wife was about to give birth. He reached his house in time for the birth — and just before the first bombs fell. Eberhard was born in a flooded cellar as the roof overhead blazed and crumpled. "I grew up among the ruins, and the bombed-out zones were our playground," he said.

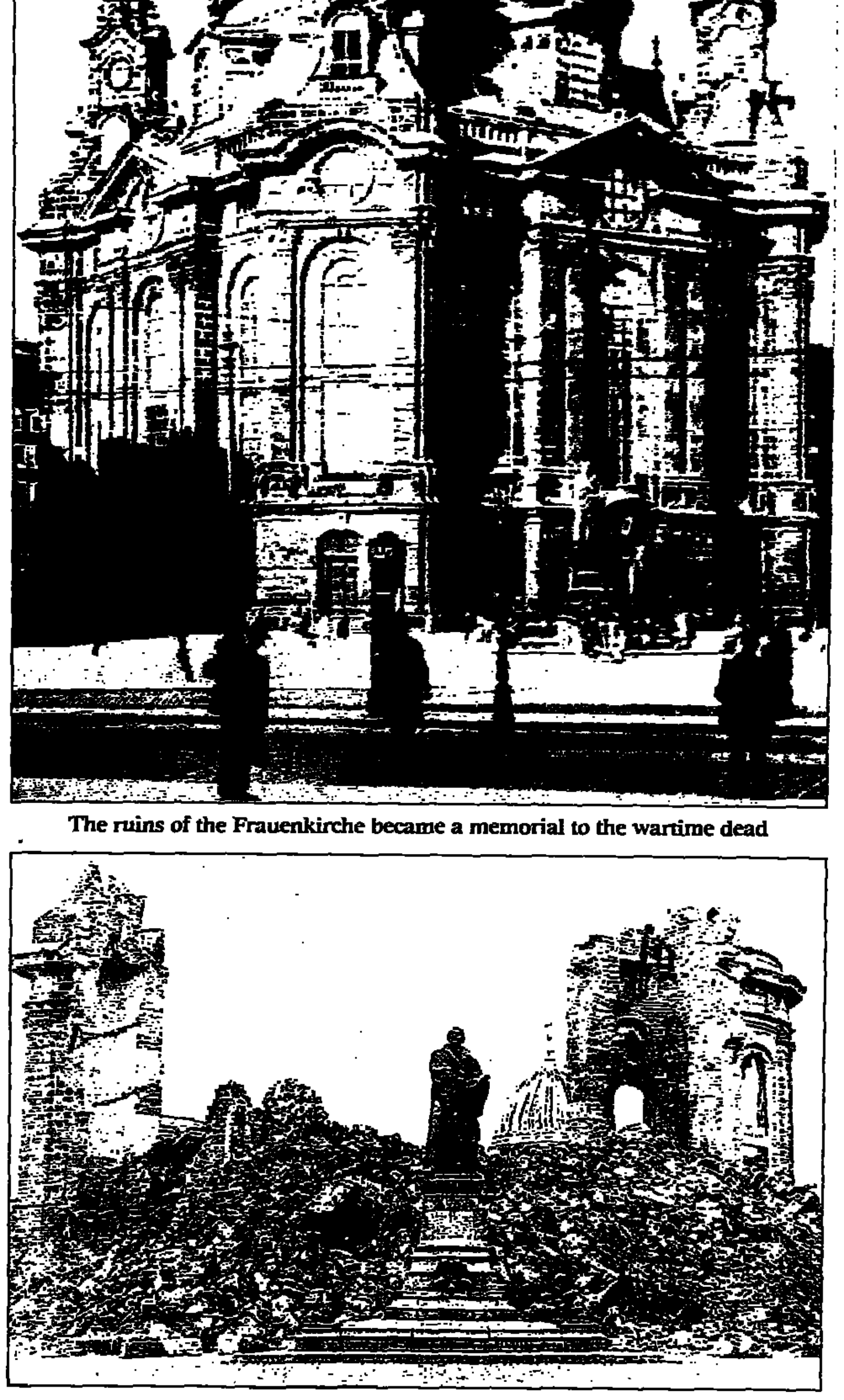
Bettina Martin, now 58, was dressed in a Red Indian party costume when the raids started. She ran to her heavily-pregnant mother and they fled from one full shelter to another. They headed for a pond normally used by fire engines. "The rest of the night we cowered next to the water. Around us the trees were burning and phosphorous dripped. People, still on fire, ran past us and threw themselves into the pond. Later they dredged 40 bodies out of the water."

At daybreak mother and daughter made their way to a bunker, directed by a woman dressed only in a bathing suit and boots. "Mother lay down on a table and my brother came to the world."

Ursula Wilde was 24 at the time of the raid. "When the first bombardment came we realised it was going to be heavy," she said. Wearing soaked sheets against the heat, Frau Wilde and her family found shelter in the crypt of the baroque Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady). But when sparks fell down the air vents of the church, and the oxygen became thin, the family had to move on. "We made for the Elbe and trudged down the embankment tripping over and treading on dark shapes that we later realised were bodies."

Frau Wilde remembers returning to her home a month after the raids. "I had to burrow through three cellars to reach ours, and there sitting in a circle were neighbours and friends, looking dirty but normal, absolutely dead — suffocated by the fumes."


The ruins of the Frauenkirche became a memorial to the wartime dead



British pay to restore church's crowning glory

REBUILDING

TWENTY-FOUR hours after the bombers had left, the Frauenkirche heaved, groaned and collapsed in a great pile of dust and rubble. George Bähr's cathedral, one of the great baroque churches in Europe, had been mortally wounded by fire and shock.

The East German communist regime saw little profit in restoring religious buildings and built excrescences of concrete around what had boasted one of the world's largest masonry domes.

The Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) became Germany's most prominent wartime ruin, carrying a memorial plaque. But when the Berlin Wall was pulled down in 1989, the mood swung towards restoration. It is now being rebuilt, with £168 million of mainly German money financing a project expected to last at least eight years. It will be one of the largest such projects, and a small but significant part of the effort will be British.

Britons have been quietly involved in the rebuilding of Dresden for nearly 30 years. In 1965 clergy at Coventry Cathedral organised a party of British university students to become builders' labourers, helping to reconstruct the Diakonissen, a hospital that had been destroyed in the raid.

A spirit of friendship was forged. Coventry, whose bombing casualties are numbered in mere hundreds, is closely involved in tonight's memorial events in Dresden. One of those students is holding her own concert in Cambridge tonight to mark the event and raise money for the rebuilding of the 1753 cathedral.

Alan Russell, a retired European Union official who set up the Dresden Trust with the aim of providing a British contribution to the rebuilding, said: "Dresden is something that lurks in the darker corners of the British national consciousness. We hope that the rebuilding will be the vibrant symbol of a new future."

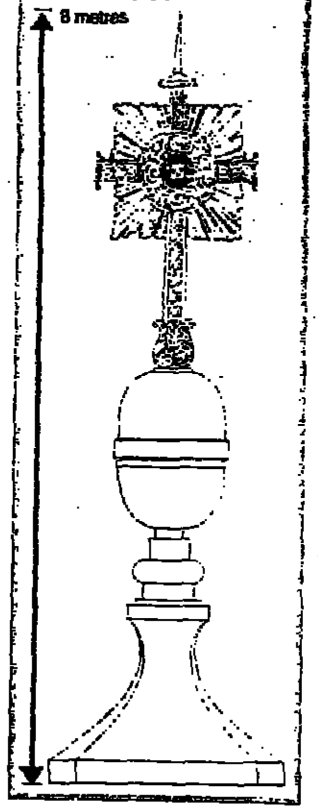
The Queen has contributed an undisclosed amount, despite having received a cool reception in Dresden during her otherwise acclaimed visit to the reunified Germany in 1992; memories of her mother attending the unveiling of the statue of Sir Arthur Harris in the Strand still burnt fresh in the German memory. Last month Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Overseas Development Minister, handed over a £50,000 cheque on behalf of the Government. The trust hopes to raise £250,000 from British sources.

This contribution will be a small part of a far grander plan that is essentially German. It will, however, pay for the church's crowning glory, a copy of the 30ft gold orb and cross that surmounted the dome. Peter Nardini, an architect from South Bank University in London, has already been to Dresden and has found and photographed the original, damaged beyond repair.

The new cross will be made by British craftsmen. Enough money is likely to be left over to fund a British chapel in the crypt. "We are not taking sides," Mr Russell said yesterday. "We hope this will be a memorial to the innocent victims of bombing everywhere."

When the rubble was first cleared last year, local people were allowed to inspect the ruins more closely. Despite temperatures of minus 10C, 22,000 people visited the church in one day. The restoration will use about a third of the original stones and two original fire-scorched columns will be incorporated into the rebuilt church. The trumpeter Ludwig Guttler, a key fundraiser, said they would serve the role of a war memorial. "We think that these scars should still be seen."

The high cost of restoration brought back the critics who tried to stamp on the project in 1990, many of them clergy. A leading churchman said: "At a time when so many Saxon apartments lacked indoor lavatories and baths, nobody can claim that there is an urgent need for another church with seating for 3,600."



The 30ft orb and cross that will top the dome

As the bomb doors opened, cold air rushed into the Lancaster

Flt Sgt Bennett today

THE AIRCREW

TO Flight Sergeant Don Bennett, the briefing at 5pm on the chilly afternoon of February 13, 1945, at RAF Balderton was no different from any that had preceded his 15 previous missions. The target was just another German city: Dresden.

"We thought, 'Oh Christ, another long one; ten hours there and back.' We were to bomb an important railway and communications centre; they never mentioned that the place was full of refugees. The good news was that the intelligence people told us not to expect too much opposition in the air that night."

With the life expectancy of a rear gunner little more than two weeks, to survive seven missions was thought lucky. Flight Sergeant Bennett, a mid-upper gunner with Squadron 9J of 5 Group, Bomber Command, was posted in a greenhouse atop a Lancaster's fuselage. He had had far more than his quota of luck, and went on to fly seven further missions before the war's end. He was aged 19.

They took off at 6pm, under a lowering, moonless sky and flew south to rendezvous with the rest of the first wave, a swarm of 244 bombers heading east in a formation two miles wide and 1,000 feet deep, the growl of their Rolls-Royce engines playing an accompaniment of menace.

They crossed the Continent untroubled by the Luftwaffe, and by only very occasional light flak. Their enemy, at 18,000ft, was the cold. "Icicles grew on my oxygen mask; my electrically heated flying suit frequently failed."

By the time the undefended city was within sight of Flight Sergeant Bennett's seven-man Lancaster crew just before 11pm, the action had begun. "On the ground I could see the sparkling lights of the first incendiaries, and the first markers, brilliant red and green like a giant display of Roman candles. I could see the first fires starting — lots of individual fires that were clearly going to spread and join up."

Ten miles from its target, Flight Sergeant Bennett's Lancaster began its level run above broken cloud. As the bomb doors opened to release 4,000lb of incendiaries, cold air rushed in. "After the bombs had gone, we had to continue on the same course for a bit longer, while the camera photographed our hit: those seconds were always a lifetime. You just wanted to get the hell out of there."

By the time the second wave of 529 bombers approached at 1.30am, an inferno was raging: crews reported seeing the firestorm when they were still 200 miles from the city. As they reached their target, navigators left their seats to gaze aghast on a spectacle the like of which they had never seen. Dresden was a city whose every street was etched with fire.

The sky blazed scarlet and white. Crewmen filled in their log sheets by the eerie light that filled their cockpits; their bodies felt the hot breath rising from the furnace. "It was the first time I ever felt sorry for the Germans," a bomb-aimer later recalled. "But my sorrow lasted only for a few seconds; the job was to hit the enemy and to hit him very hard."

Mr Bennett now lives in retirement in Hertfordshire. "I never gave Dresden another thought until years later, when the controversy began to emerge. Dresden is not on my conscience, any more than any other mission I flew on. The wickedness of war is that people get killed. A great many were killed in Dresden, but you must remember that we were fighting, and risking our adolescent lives to defeat a greater evil."

Bennett in wartime

Brass bands rally to beat shortage of young recruits

By Paul Wilkinson

BRITAIN'S brass band tradition is under threat from cuts in education funding. Music tuition has fallen victim to contracting school budgets and the flow of young players into the bands has dwindled to a trickle.

Jack Binns, secretary of the brass band association in Yorkshire, heartland of the movement, said: "Bands are having trouble finding players because the young ones are not coming through from the schools. Some have had to amalgamate to survive.

"Many local authorities have ceased providing instrumental tuition as part of the school curriculum. Parents who want their children taught to play have to pay."

The biggest blow has been the cut in peripatetic teachers. Now that schools have their own budgets, only the largest can afford music lessons or a wide selection of instruments.

In addition, Mr Binns says, school bands have switched from brass to wind. "Children are being lost to the brass band movement. It applies all over the country."

The number of bands in Britain has been declining steadily, from about 40,000 at the turn of the century to about 1,400 today, despite a revival about 25 years ago. Although most have weathered the closure of collieries, factories and mills that traditionally sponsored works bands, in Yorkshire for example, there are far fewer today than in the immediate post-war years.

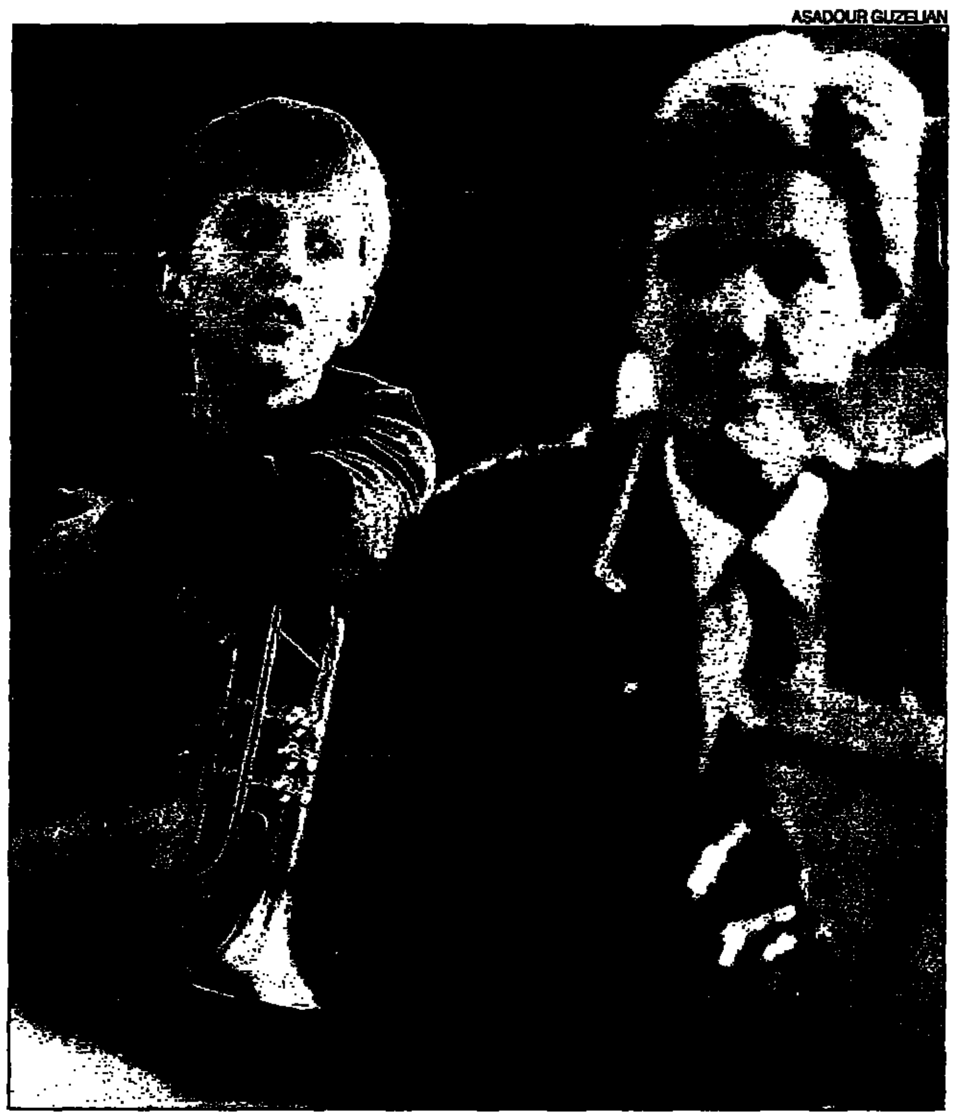
David Read, education officer of the British Federation of Brass Bands, agreed that the loss of peripatetic teachers was worrying. "Some parents are prepared to pay for lessons privately, but they also have to buy their own instrument and no parent is going to fork out up to £3,000 for a euphonium. They will pick instruments which are cheaper."

Many bands are tackling the problem by forming their own youth sections. The Clifton and Lightcliffe Band, which has been playing in West Yorkshire for more than 150 years, is expanding.

Help has also come from one of the country's largest instrument suppliers, Norman's. The Burton on Trent firm has set up its own programme. "We suddenly realised that as music teaching stopped we would lose a large section of our business," Gareth Haines, education director of Norman's, said. Now he runs a non-profit-making department employing 150 teachers touring 700 schools from Devon to Carlisle.

"The number of children receiving tuition has doubled to 10,000 in the last year as more schools take up the idea," he said. For £12 a month, a pupil receives weekly lessons, an instrument which is owned after three years, and the necessary books.

Education, page 37



ASADOUR GUZELIAN

The Clifton and Lightcliffe Band, of West Yorkshire, in rehearsal yesterday

Trading officers expose myths in health pill claims

By Tony Dawe

A CAMPAIGN against companies that sell phoney health and fitness products is likely to lead to a wave of prosecutions.

Trading standards officers in Gloucestershire found "multivitamin" pills that did not contain any vitamin A or D, "muscle-building" tablets that contained no more than 1 per cent of the adult daily requirement for protein, and diet capsules available at 50p a pot that were sold for £8 by mail order.

They brought their first successful prosecution last week against Horleys Health of Berkshire, which was fined £2,000 for selling Protein 90 Plus, a powdered body-building supplement which contained only 83 per cent protein. Five more charges are expected to be laid shortly against other companies, and other trading standards departments are investigating producers in their areas.

Paul Galland, head of Gloucestershire's trading standards, said: "The high number of problem samples uncovered in this survey has confirmed that some companies, mostly operating on a mail-order basis, are preying on the legitimate desire of many people to lead a healthier lifestyle. Some people are being exploited and misled."

Among the false claims investigated was one for a health product said to be "rich in guaranine, a natural and potent nutrient" which "supplements our own natural resources and so greatly enhances our joy of life". Mr Galland said: "How many people would buy this product if they knew that guaranine is in fact caffeine?"

Another claim was for a "revolutionary supplement for body-builders which acts as a catalyst ensuring that every nutrient you eat is absorbed", but which contained no compounds to achieve this effect. The Gloucestershire officers began their investigation after seeing "outrageous claims" in mail-order advertisements in body-building and fitness magazines and national newspapers, John Brian, senior enforcement officer, said.

Most YTS workers 'quit courses early'

By A Staff Reporter

UP TO 60 per cent of young people who attend the Government's Youth Training scheme have no qualification when they leave, according to a survey published today.

Half of all youth trainees do not find a job at the end of their training and 58 per cent leave early. Kevin Barron, Labour's training spokesman, reported.

Mr Barron, who used figures supplied in written parliamentary replies by James Paice, an Employment Minister, called for an investigation by the Employment Department into why so many young people were being "failed" by the system.

The Employment Department said that more than four million 16 and 17-year-olds had benefited from Youth Training in the past 12 years. Three out of four left the scheme to find a job or go into further education and training, and 72 per cent gained some form of qualification, the department said.

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BRINGING LOW COST GAS TO BRITAIN

Fighting in Bihac threatens to melt uneasy Bosnia truce

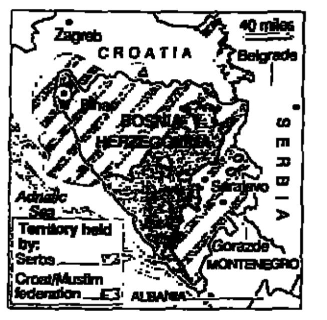
FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

FRESH clashes along front lines which have been peaceful since a six-week truce took hold are threatening to undo the Bosnia-wide ceasefire and raising the spectre of a renewed war as the winter snows melt.

Bosnian Serb forces and the mainly Muslim government troops have resumed combat around the town of Bosanska Krupa, along the eastern edge of the northwestern Bihac pocket. "Bihac has been the main area of difficulty since the ceasefire started." Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward, a United Nations spokesman said. "But this is the first time we have seen straight [Bosnian army and Serb] fighting. It has calmed down enormously for today, it will be telling to see whether fighting flares up again tomorrow," he said last night.

So far, the clashes have been mostly between government forces and Croatian Serbs from across the border and a small army of renegade Muslims they have been backing. "For the first time since November we have had fighting on three fronts" around Bihac, the British colonel said. The reactivated front around Bosanska Krupa may be a Serb attempt to draw government units away from the combat near Velika Kladusa and to gain ground while the Bosnian army is occupied in other parts of the enclave. Over the weekend, the opposing armies exchanged more than 1,500 artillery, tank and mortar shells around Bihac. It was some of the most worrisome clashes in Bosnia in more than a month, Colonel Coward said.

For the first time in weeks, Bihac town, a UN-declared "safe area", is being directly targeted by Serb gunners, another UN official said. Continuous heavy fighting around the town of Velika Kladusa, along the enclave's northern border, had earlier threatened to unravel the ceasefire accord. But the Bosnian Government, angry over continued attacks in the area, decided that they were not enough to jeopardise the accord in the rest of the country.



Both sides seemed prepared to accept localised fighting in that area. With fighting spreading, however, the Sarajevo Government may rethink its response. In an effort to preserve the ceasefire and encourage further co-operation between the two sides, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the UN commander in Bosnia, travelled to central Bosnia to meet General Rasim Delic, the officer in command of the Bosnian army.

General Delic has refused to participate in key working discussions for separation of combat troops and defuse tensions, citing the developments around Bihac. "The ceasefire is hanging by a thread," he said in a letter to General Smith in which he accused the Serbs of reneging on the ceasefire and truce agreements.

In Sarajevo, a Serb sniper shot and critically wounded a 16-year-old boy and shot a 42-year-old man in the arm yesterday, the UN reported. They were the first two sniping incidents in several weeks of unusual calm in the Bosnian capital.

☐ **Supplies resume:** International aid flights to Sarajevo, which supply about 80 per cent of the city's food, will resume today after a two-day suspension, the UN announced. The air bridge to the besieged capital was suspended on Friday amid tension over revenge detentions of civilians by the warring factions in Sarajevo. *(Reuter)*

Sunshine beams through the stained-glass windows of Sarajevo's main cathedral yesterday as Bosnian Catholics took advantage of the ceasefire to attend Mass

Yeltsin resorts to mystic as remedy for ills

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

Fears that President Yeltsin is emulating his Soviet predecessors have received support from an unexpected source: he is reported to be receiving help from the same mystic faith healer who soothed the declining years of Leonid Brezhnev, the late Soviet leader.

Djuna Davitashvili, self-styled "channeller of bio-energy" and head of a "school for alternative medicine", is a curious figure. Thanks to a former husband, her surname is Georgian, but she is in fact of Assyrian origin, the people of Nineveh and Assur. Some 20,000 Assyrians live in the former Soviet Union, descendants of refugees who fled from Muslim persecution. Mrs Davitashvili is the chairman of the "Ancient Order of Assyrians" in Russia. She is also a Russian monarchist and has been known to hand out noble "titles" to believers in her powers; on what authority it is not exactly clear.

Mrs Davitashvili, aged an extremely approximate 45, claimed in a recent newspaper interview to be a frequent visitor to President Yeltsin, and to advise him on policy as well as boosting his bio-energy and practising "contactless massage". The extent of her real influence is not clear, but Pavel Voshchanov, a former press secretary to Mr Yeltsin, says that in 1992 she was a frequent visitor.

Brezhnev's dependence on faith healers such as Mrs Davitashvili was used to discredit and mock him when Mikhail Gorbachev and his followers set out to denounce the former Soviet leadership. A leading part in that campaign was played by none other than Mr Gorbachev's then leading supporter, Mr Yeltsin.

Soviet leaders of Brezhnev's and indeed Yeltsin's generation were often the children of peasant or recently peasant families. Their own childhoods were spent in an atmosphere of deep and ancient superstition, especially when it came to folk medicine. These men were then given the smatterings of a scientific and atheist education under communism, but as they grew old and sick, so ancient patterns of belief reasserted themselves.

The collapse of communism has produced a multiplicity of figures such as Mrs Davitashvili, especially in the fields of faith healing and communication with the dead. The opening-up of television has given particular opportunities and many of these figures have had famous clients. Mrs Davitashvili claims not just President Yeltsin but General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, among her intimates. A newspapers has reported that senior Russian officers consult horoscopes.

The most notorious faith healer in Russia's history, the debauched monk Grigori Rasputin, rose to be a confidant of Empress Alexandra, the wife of the doomed Nicholas II, mainly because of his ability through hypnosis to help her chronically sick son, Alexis.

Rasputin also gave both the Tsar and his wife a feeling of being in touch with the real Russia, the Russia of the peasants, over the heads of sycophantic courtiers. He assured them that Russia supported the Tsar. Mrs Davitashvili has said: "I consider that it is every citizen's duty to inform the President of the people's views."

While some observers see in Mr Yeltsin's alleged consultations with Mrs Davitashvili only a rather pathetic sign of his increasing illness and isolation, others have perceived more sinister factors. One theory being put forward by the President's critics is that Mrs Davitashvili's influence has been promoted by Alexander Korzhakov, the chief of presidential security and a key member of the group which now dominates Mr Yeltsin's entourage and policy-making.

Djuna Davitashvili, the healer who claims President Yeltsin as a client, and Rasputin

Chechens ready for ceasefire

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Russian army consolidated its hold on Grozny, the Chechen capital, at the weekend, as rebel forces regrouped in the rest of the country.

The Chechen command has moved its headquarters from Grozny to Shalli, 12 miles to the south-east. General Aslan Maskhadov, the chief of staff, yesterday said that his soldiers have agreed to a ceasefire proposed by the Government of neighbouring Ingushetia, so that prisoners could be exchanged.

General Maskhadov said that negotiations with the Russian army could begin. Previous such offers have been rejected by Moscow.

Almost half of Chechenia is still controlled by rebel forces. However, Chechen opposition to General Dzhokhar Dudayev, their leader, appears to be becoming more active.

Tomorrow, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will meet Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, for talks in Stockholm, at which Chechenia will be at the top of the agenda. Nato expansion eastwards will also be discussed. The meeting is expected to mark the end of a cooling in relations between London and Moscow over the war in Chechenia.

Bossi starts party on 'moral' crusade

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

UMBERTO BOSSI, the leader of Italy's devolutionist Northern League, received a standing ovation from delegates at a national congress yesterday after pledging to create a "great national party" of moral salvation.

Signor Bossi charmed 600 delegates and 5,000 party militants at the three-day extravaganza in Milan by offering his resignation, a proposal they rejected unanimously. He also indicated that he plans to join forces with the majority of the former Christian Democrat Italian People's Party (PPI) and the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) in a new centre-left alliance to prevent Gianfranco Fini, the National Alliance leader, and Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, winning a general election and creating "a new Fascist regime".

Bossi: charmed 600 delegates in Milan

The Congress saw further defections from the League parliamentary group among MPs disillusioned with Signor Bossi's dictatorial style. They included Roberto Maroni, the former Interior Minister in the Berlusconi Government, who announced he was leaving the party but would take a break from politics.

Signor Bossi now has 77 MPs in the Chamber of Deputies compared with 117 after last March's election but shrugged off the losses, saying the League would "begin the penetration of the South" and change its name to the "Italian Federal Party".

"I pray those who want to leave to do it today," he said to wild applause, "because from tomorrow the League will cauterise its wounds and relaunch the attack ... the long march can begin again."

Signor Bossi said the League would remain a centre party but added that he would form "a Front of national liberation from the Fascists" if the Government did not pass anti-trust legislation to curb the television monopoly enjoyed by Signor Berlusconi before the election campaign officially begins.

Skinheads mar vigil in Vienna

FROM REUTER IN VIENNA

SKINHEADS in Vienna trampled on candles lit in memory of four gypsies murdered last week in the worst suspected neo-Nazi bomb attack in Austria since the Second World War, human rights activists said yesterday.

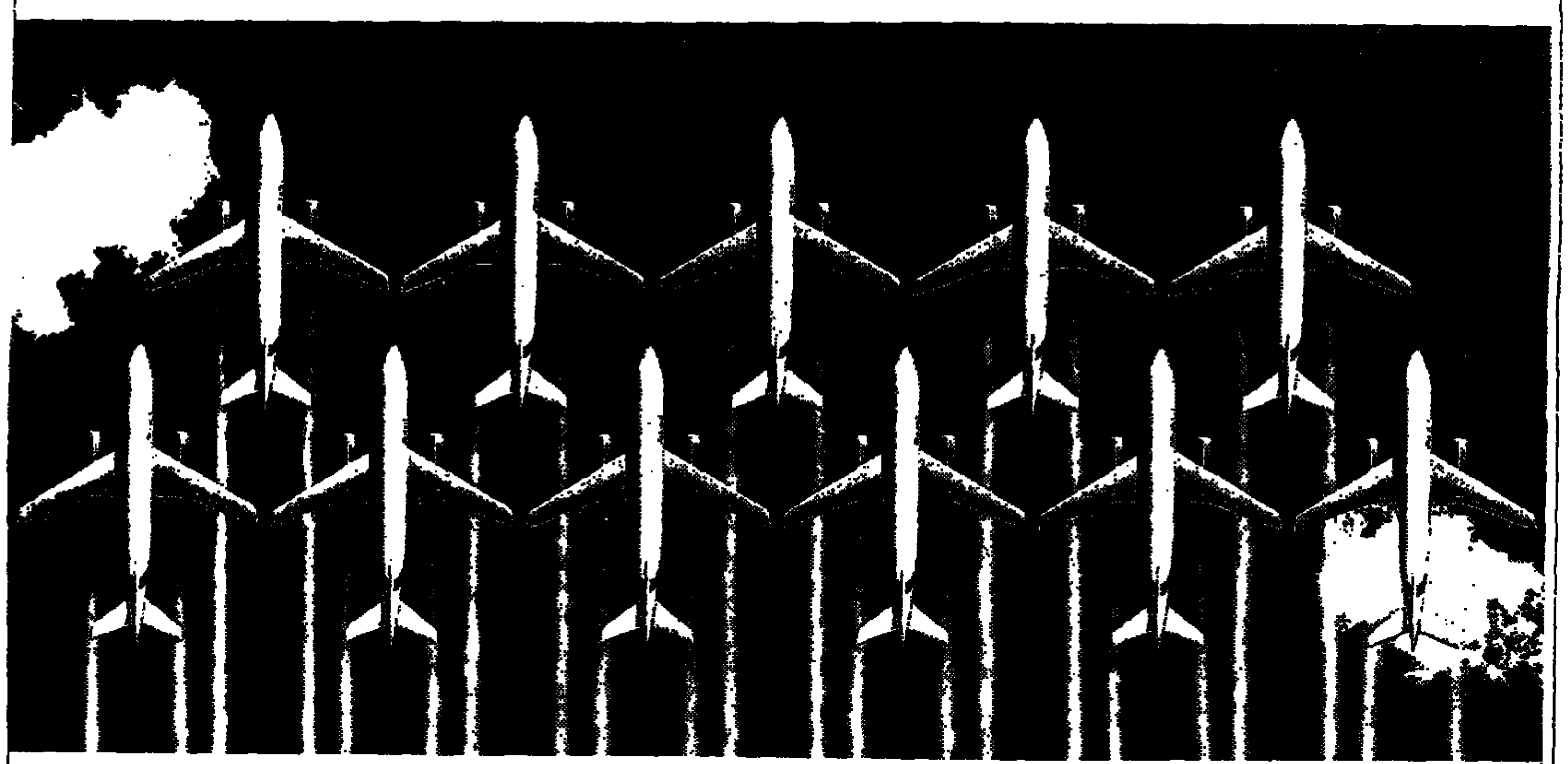
Members of the human rights organisation SOS-Mitmensch held an all-night vigil at the site of the wartime Nazi Gestapo headquarters in Vienna and on steps leading to the city's oldest church, the Ruprechtskirche, on Saturday and yesterday.

Two groups of skinheads kicked and stamped on scores of candles placed on the steps leading to the church in the early hours yesterday, the Austrian news agency APA quoted activists as saying. The skinheads shouted racist slogans, according to the agency.

Franz Loeschnak, the Interior Minister, pledged yesterday to redouble efforts to quash the network of right-wing extremism in Austria, "using all possible technical means", including telephone bugging.

The vigil began hours after the four gypsies, all Austrian citizens, were buried in their home town of Oberwart, 60 miles south of Vienna, where they were killed in the bomb blast last week.

No-one beats the Italian eleven.



(Eleven flights a day to Milan and Rome, that is.)

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Mexican peasants vow war as the army tightens noose

BY DAVID ADAMS

THREE days after the Mexican Government launched a military offensive to crush a 13-month peasant revolt in Chiapas, the noose appears to be tightening on the retreating rebels.

Attention was distracted from events in the southern state of Chiapas by yesterday's important local elections in the central state of Jalisco, where the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) of President Zedillo, is facing potentially its most serious defeat in 66 years in power.

Polls opened normally and voting was reportedly uneventful in the state capital, Guadalajara, the country's second-largest city. The tough image Señor Zedillo is trying to project in Chiapas may help him to rally support from voters in Jalisco. But it may be too late. Pre-election polls have put the ruling party 15 per cent behind the opposition National Action Party.

Observers fear a violent reaction from government supporters if the party loses. That would augur badly for a string of local elections in the next few months, running across the country from Baja California in the north, through central Mexico, to Yucatan in the south. Although Mexican troops have denied journalists access to the area of military operations in Chiapas, reports from residents fleeing small, isolated villages indicate that the army's strategy is to encircle the greatly outnumbered Zapatista National Liberation Army and force a surrender.

The army's game of cat and mouse received a boost at the weekend when Guatemala announced that its armed forces would co-operate by reinforcing the border with Mexico, cutting off an escape route.

Mexico's Defence Ministry says it has deployed 2,500 troops, 31 aircraft, 30 tanks and 32 armoured cars in the manhunt for five Zapatista chiefs. But it seems, for the time being at least, that the army may have been outwitted by the rebels' chief strategist, Rafael Guillen, alias Subcomandante Marcos.

According to a letter and statements by Marcos, published at the weekend, the Zapatistas were clearly expecting and had prepared for an attack by the Government. This would explain the apparent ease with which their forces slipped away into the mountainous rain forest, leaving barely a trace. "They (the Government) have been tricking us. They have been taking their time so they can attack us in the time of drought, of hunger." Señor Marcos told reporters from the Mexico City daily, *La Jornada*, in an interview at a rebel camp hours before troops launched their assault. "They think we are desperate and do not take into account that we prepared for this," he said. "What will follow, if no one stops it, is a guerrilla war."

Public reaction to Señor Zedillo's Chiapas offensive has been mixed. A poll published in *Reforma* found that 52 per cent approved, but 63 per cent predicted that the capture of the rebel leaders would not end the conflict.

At an anti-Government rally in Mexico City, Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, president of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party, said: "We would not like to think that the cost of these measures will be the oil and blood of the Mexican people." That was a clear reference to the $50 billion (£32 billion) rescue package put together by President Clinton.

Señor Zedillo was under increasing pressure to restore investor confidence, and this may have influenced his decision to try to crush the revolt.

A child watches as a Mexican soldier stands guard in San Cristobal Las Casas during a hunt for rebel leaders

Nominee sterilised mentally ill

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

HENRY FOSTER, President Clinton's controversial choice to be America's Surgeon-General, was under new attack yesterday following the revelation that he performed hysterectomies to sterilise mentally retarded women 20 to 30 years ago.

Activist groups that had supported Dr Foster during last week's furore over his performing abortions turned against him. "I'm appalled," said Diane Welsh, president of the New York chapter of the National Organisation for Women. "We're utterly opposed to anything remotely resembling forced sterilisation."

Mr Clinton remained enthusiastically behind Dr Foster, 61, an obstetrician and gynaecologist from Nashville who is widely respected in his profession. He is also seen as a man of great compassion in his community where he has a programme called "I Have a Future" that rescues deprived teenagers among his fellow blacks from the perils of drugs and teenage pregnancies, giving them a sense of personal esteem, job training and family planning.

"We will fight for his nomination," said Leon Panetta, the President's Chief of Staff. The sterilisation disclosure had in no way changed the President's support, but it could clearly complicate the doctor's prospects on Capitol Hill, where the abortion feud already had Democrats and Republicans turning against his nomination as the nation's senior medical and health officer.

Foster: seen as a man of great compassion

The sterilisation issue was made public by the White House itself where officials, under attack for bungling the nomination, belatedly issued a sheaf of Dr Foster's writings and speeches. In a 1976 article in the *Southern Medical Journal* he wrote: "Recently, I have begun to use hysterectomy in patients with severe mental retardation" either to sterilise them or to eliminate menstrual periods "which is of significant hygienic benefit in these severely handicapped individuals". The White House said Dr Foster performed "a small number" of hysterectomies on the mentally retarded.

Authorities on the subject confirmed that such hysterectomies — removal of the uterus — were considered acceptable in "mainstream medicine" at the time. Since then, with new drugs and new attitudes, the practice has all but vanished. Dr Foster, like most physicians today, no longer considers sterilisation of retarded women by hysterectomy to be appropriate. Most US states now have stringent laws restricting sterilisation without consent.

Dr Foster should be an ideal candidate for Surgeon-General. Yet it seems likely that no one who has worked in gynaecology and obstetrics has a hope of appealing to the anti-abortion lobby.

To make matters worse, Dr Foster and the White House gave differing accounts of how many legal abortions he had performed — initially fewer than a dozen, then 39, plus a government drug trial in which 55 women terminated pregnancies.

"How could the White House stumble into a fight of these proportions?" asked Newt Gingrich, House Speaker. An angry Mr Clinton reportedly put a similar query to his advisers: "How do I answer the question that either this guy's lying or I've got an incredibly inept staff?" Mr Panetta was supposed to halt the Administration's history of botched nominations when he was appointed eight months ago. Yesterday he admitted that mistakes were still being made. "It takes a lot of work to bring all the sheep into the corral," he said.

The Foster nomination, overshadowing the budget and other legislation, has become so divisive that it may be withdrawn unless the doctor can rally sufficient votes.

O.J. Simpson taken on tour of sites linked to murders

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

The former American football star, O.J. Simpson, returned to his home ground yesterday for the first time since his arrest last year. Exercising his right to accompany his jury on a field trip to sites linked to the Brown-Goldman killings, he wore a concealed electronic device to stun him should he try to flee.

Much of the lush west Los Angeles distict of Brentwood was expected to grind to a standstill as jurors, lawyers, Judge Lance Ito and Mr Simpson toured the area of the killings in convoy of vans. They were shielded from the media by the tinted glass of the vehicles and a cordon of 200 sheriff's deputies likened by local reporters to the protection given to an American president.

Press photographers were warned that they would be arrested if they tried taking pictures of the jurors, whose identities are secret. The judge said that anyone, press or bystander, taking photographs of the jurors would be held in contempt of court and automatically jailed.

Nevertheless, paparazzi were said to be offering Mr Simpson's neighbours on Rockingham Avenue daily rents starting at $500 (£320) for space overlooking Mr Simpson's now-deserted home two miles from the scene of the killings.

The home visit, a ritual common to most Californian murder trials, looked yesterday as if it would be both a logistical nightmare and a grudge match between the prosecution team and the guardians of Mr Simpson's "nice-guy" image.

Its main purpose was to help jurors to visualise scenes repeatedly mentioned in court, such as the alley in which the bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson, Mr Simpson's former wife, and Ronald Goldman were found. But a dispute started during a rehearsal for the trip conducted without the jury on Friday, when Cheri Lewis, the deputy district attorney, objected to jurors being shown Mr Simpson's trophy room.

That shrine to the defendant's unmatched achievements on the American football field was irrelevant, Ms Lewis argued, and would prejudice jurors in his favour. Johnnie Cochran, a defence lawyer, countered that it was unfair to exclude areas that reflected well on his client. Judge Ito agreed.

Other places on the itinerary were Goldman's modest flat and the Mezzaluna restaurant near by, where he was a waiter and where Brown Simpson ate with her family on the night she died.

The judge had earlier encouraged jurors to dress down for the trip. Even though the court television camera is forbidden to film the jurors, they have responded to the publicity by dressing impeccably. Simpson denies murdering his former wife and her friend.

WORLD SUMMARY

Ecuador destroys Peruvian aircraft

Lima: President Fujimori of Peru said that a 17-day-old border conflict with Ecuador was edging towards a dangerous escalation after three warplanes were shot down by Ecuadorean anti-aircraft fire in the disputed frontier area.

Two Russian-built Sukhoi warplanes and an American-built A37 fighter aircraft were brought down on Friday during a bombing mission in the area of Tiwinza, a key hilltop base about a mile inside Peru which remains in Ecuadorean hands despite a week-long siege, President Fujimori said. However, he ruled out an invasion of Ecuador.

In Quito, an Ecuadorean army general said that the Peruvian bombing raids were aimed at weakening Ecuadorean positions. "We think this is the prelude to a large-scale attack." *(Reuter)*

Prying tax men break the law

Sydney: Tax officials have been caught spying on the financial and personal life of some of Australia's most prominent citizens, including Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, a newspaper report alleges.

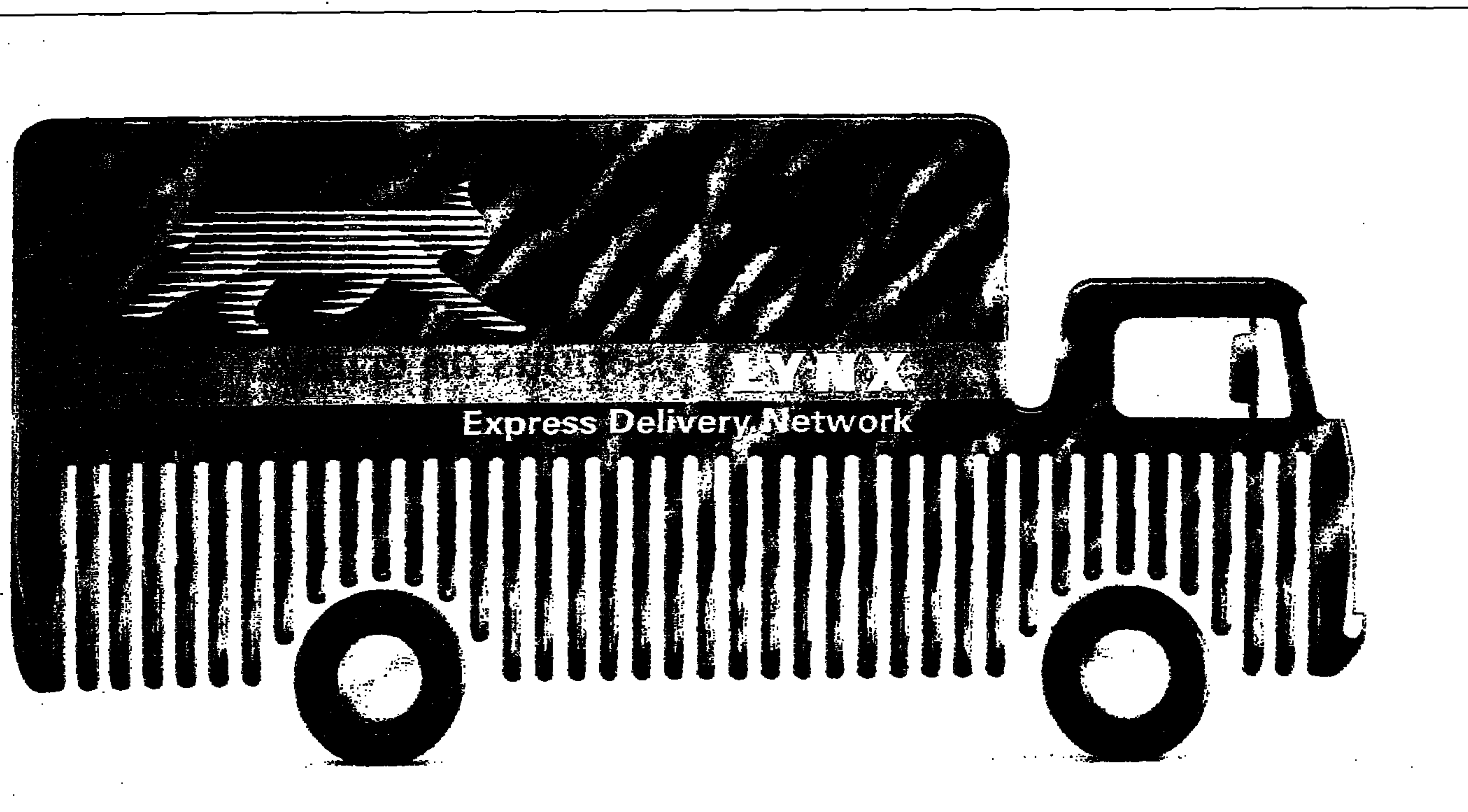
Among others whose privacy had been invaded were cricketers Allan Border and Shane Warne and rugby league players Andrew Ettinghausen and Mal Meninga. The paper said 13 tax officers had already been found guilty of serious breaches of privacy laws while action was pending against another three. *(AFP)*

Gallery marks bomb repairs

Florence: The works of more than 60 contemporary artists went on display in the Uffizi Gallery this weekend to mark the reopening of a room in the Renaissance palace that was badly damaged by a bomb in 1993. The exhibition, entitled "Compensation", is being held in the freshly-restored Royal Mail Room, whose 750ft long glass roof was destroyed in the explosion. Restoration was financed by public donations.

"Apart from celebrating the restoration of these important surroundings we are also here to hail the great solidarity shown for Florence and its international art heritage," Anna Maria Petrioli Tofani, the gallery director, said.

The bomb, blamed on the Mafia, killed five people, injured more than 50, and damaged more than 200 works of art. *(Reuter)*



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Winnie Mandela faces ultimatum to resign

Ray Kennedy reports from Johannesburg on the latest political crisis resulting from the allegedly undemocratic behaviour of President Mandela's estranged wife

THE political career of Winnie Mandela, the controversial estranged wife of President Mandela of South Africa, was again in the balance last night despite efforts by her husband to resolve a crisis over her role in the powerful African National Congress Women's League.

Mrs Mandela was reported to be faced with a 24-hour ultimatum to resign as a deputy minister, while President Mandela held several hours of talks with the Women's League, which she heads, after the resignation of 11 executive members over her alleged undemocratic behaviour, bad leadership and unaccountability. President Mandela was said to be under great emotional strain over the issues.

After four hours of talks yesterday in Johannesburg with the Women's League, which Mrs Mandela did not attend, Lindiwe Zulu, its spokesman, said the resignations would not be withdrawn unless Mr Mandela took action, even though the league was aware of the anguish the matter was causing him. President Mandela said: "This is a matter that is entirely in the hands of the Women's League. They are in firm control." The President declined to make any further comment.

The league plays a pivotal role in the ANC's choice of leaders and general policy direction. Mrs Mandela's election to its presidency in 1993 surprised many within the organisation who felt that her political career was finished after her conviction for kidnapping. The case involved Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, a teenage activist who was later murdered by her bodyguard. But she campaigned vigorously, particularly in the squatter camps and the most impoverished sectors of the black community where expectations are highest.

Until her trial in the kidnapping case — her five year sentence was reduced to a 15,000 rands (£2,700) fine on appeal — many considered her the "mother of the nation" during the 27 years of her husband's imprisonment. Last week, however, the Canadian Government refused her an entry visa because of her criminal background.

Adelaide Tambo: highly respected in own right

The resignations of 11 Women's League executive members is ostensibily linked to a decision by Mrs Mandela, without reference to other league leaders, to establish a tourist venture with Omar Sharif, the film star, called "Road to Freedom Tours". It aims to encourage black Americans to visit South Africa's "sites of struggle", including President Mandela's birthplace and his prison cell on Robben Island.

President Mandela and his estranged wife, Winnie, sit together for the formal opening of the new democratically elected parliament last May

The differences between Mrs Mandela and the league executive go far deeper, however, and colleagues are deeply critical of what they consider to be her undemocratic decision-making, her lack of "transparency" and accountability and her "inability to unite women".

Mrs Mandela's appointment as Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology in the Government of National Unity after the elections last April has always been seen as a gesture of conciliation by President Mandela to his estranged wife, for whom he retains deep affection despite her criminal conviction and her rabble-rousing political style. Nevertheless, as Women's League president she could have expected a Cabinet position and three of the women who have resigned from the league's executive are Cabinet members. Among the others is Adelaide Tambo, widow of Oliver Tambo, the former ANC President who died last year. She is one of the most influential and respected figures in the organisation in her own right.

Reports yesterday said that Mrs Mandela had been given 24 hours publicly to retract statements she made at the funeral of a policeman last week criticising the Government, or she will be dismissed from her ministerial post. Government sources said there were strong feelings that she could not have it both ways: publicly criticising the Government while continuing to hold office. At the funeral of a warrant officer shot dead by white police officers during protests by black colleagues in Soweto, Mrs Mandela said that the Government had failed people like him because racism still existed in the workplace. She challenged the ANC leadership to demonstrate "whether we are in power or just in government".

President Mandela is reported to have told a meeting of ministers, deputy ministers and senior party officials in Pretoria that his wife's statements made him unhappy.

In an unrelated but further blow to ANC unity, it was announced yesterday that Sam Shilowa, secretary-general of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the ANC's principal alliance partner, was resigning his position on the ANC national executive committee. A Cosatu official said that the dual role had caused a conflict of interests and interfered with trade union activities.

☐ **Ex-minister dead:** Hendrik Schoeman, former Minister of Transport and leader of the House of Assembly in the National Party Government of Mr P.W. Botha, was found shot dead on his farm at Delmas in the Eastern Transvaal yesterday. He was 67. A shotgun was found near by and the local police said that they did not suspect any crime.

Mr Schoeman, who had extensive maize farming interests, had a reputation of being one of the most jovial and down-to-earth members of previous National Party governments, but friends said that he had never recovered from the death of his eldest son, Christiaan, in similar circumstances several years ago.

Politician alleges cover-up in Gandhi murder

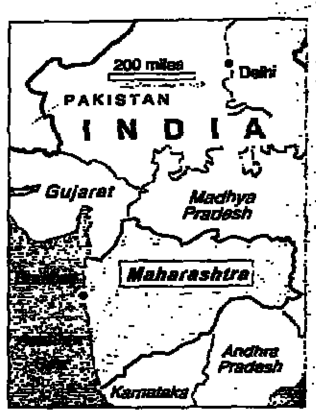
From Christopher Thomas in Delhi

OPEN warfare broke out yesterday in India's governing Congress Party, which seems to be disintegrating amid corruption scandals, intrigues and leadership battles.

A new ingredient was added with suggestions of a high-level cover-up of events surrounding the 1991 assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister. Arjun Singh, a leadership contender and former Cabinet minister sacked from the party last week for indiscipline, released the text of a letter to the organisation's disciplinary action committee in which he referred to "the cover-up".

This was a rare public acknowledgement of years of whispered conspiracy theories, including the possibility of involvement by political rivals and enemies who did not want Gandhi to return to power in the 1991 election. The Gandhi-Nehru dynasty provided prime ministers for 37 of the 48 years of independence and crushed potential rivals.

Mr Singh's remarks were meant primarily for the ears of Gandhi's widow, Sonia, 48, who seems to favour him for the party leadership. She is pleased by his demands for a more thorough investigation of her husband's killing.



Many doubt that the Tamil Tigers alone were responsible for the assassination. One theory is that they acted as contract killers.

Any potential Congress Party leader needs the blessing of Mrs Gandhi, who wields behind-the-scenes influence as matriarch of the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty. Another of her priorities is to halt discussion of the whereabouts of $200 million (£128 million) in backhanders paid to unnamed Indian politicians by Bofors, the Swedish arms manufacturer, in exchange for contracts in the late 1980s.

Mr Singh said corruption scandals had affected the Government's credibility. He threw down the gauntlet as police and paramilitary forces spread out across the southwestern state of Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital, to oversee the second round of state elections.

Maharashtra, with 27 million voters, has been a Congress stronghold almost continuously for nearly half a century, but a coalition of Hindu nationalists is mounting a stiff challenge. Muslims, 10 per cent of the voters, have abandoned Congress because of its failure to protect them from Hindu violence.

Unita 'to honour peace'

From Reuter in Luanda

THE Unita rebel movement in Angola agreed yesterday to honour a peace accord it signed with the Government three months ago aimed at ending Africa's longest and most costly civil war.

Unita, led by Jonas Savimbi, said that it adopted resolutions backing the peace process on the last day of its annual congress held in its central highlands headquarters of Bailundo.

The peace agreement had been in doubt because of Dr Savimbi's failure to attend its signing in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, last November and subsequent accusations by both sides of ceasefire violations. Dr Savimbi, under pressure from hardline elements in Unita, had previously declined to express full support for the agreement or to reject it outright.

A Unita statement said: "Following an exhaustive debate, the congress adopted the following resolutions: the congress approves all plans for peace in Angola: the congress approves all steps towards national reconciliation."

The congress gave its backing to a meeting between President dos Santos and Dr Savimbi when the conditions were right. The two men have not met for years. Reacting to Unita's decision, Angolan state radio commented: "The idea of the men of arms returning to war was rejected by the congress members."

Unita, which has been fighting a bush war against the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) almost continuously since the country's independence from Portugal in 1975, called for a total amnesty for the whole civil war period.

Unita also welcomed last week's approval by the United Nations Security Council of the deployment of 7,000 peacekeeping troops in Angola. But it said it would have to be consulted over which countries took part in the peacekeeping operation. Britain is to supply at least 500 logistics experts.

The force has been designed to arrive in stages, leaving the UN the mobility to call off the mission at strategic intervals if a ceasefire and other agreements fall apart.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Afghan leader denies defeat

Pul-i-Alam: Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Afghanistan's main opposition, yesterday denied a claim by a militant Islamic student movement that it had taken the eastern province of Logar from his forces.

He described the claim, which was made by a Taleban movement spokesman in Pakistan on Saturday, as a lie and told reporters at the provincial capital of Pul-i-Alam that the province remained under the control of his Hezb-i-Islami party.

In a statement issued in Peshawar, the party referred to Taleban as a "mercenary" movement. *(Reuter)*

Hostage freed

Managua: Gary Hicks, an American kidnapped by Nicaraguan bandits, has been freed, his Nicaraguan wife said. Susan Howard, a British reporter, had been released earlier. *(Reuter)*

River accident

Saõ Paulo: Six people died and 30 were missing after a riverboat struck a floating log and sank on a deserted stretch of the Solimoes river in Brazil, a tributary of the Amazon. *(Reuter)*

Aid staff freed

Nairobi: Ten foreign aid workers held hostage for up to three days by Sudanese rebels arrived in the Kenyan capital tired but in good health. They worked for Médecins du Monde, Unicef and Swiss Disaster Relief. *(AP)*

Trouble brews

Papeete: Police, including reinforcements flown in from Paris, used teargas to quell rioters hurling stones and petrol bombs in French-ruled Tahiti in a conflict triggered by the sacking of two brewery workers. *(Reuter)*

Fair cabbie

Peking: An honest taxi driver returned to a Russian woman passenger a lost bag containing the equivalent of £19,000, a lifetime's wages for the average urban Chinese, it was reported. *(Reuter)*

Doom watch

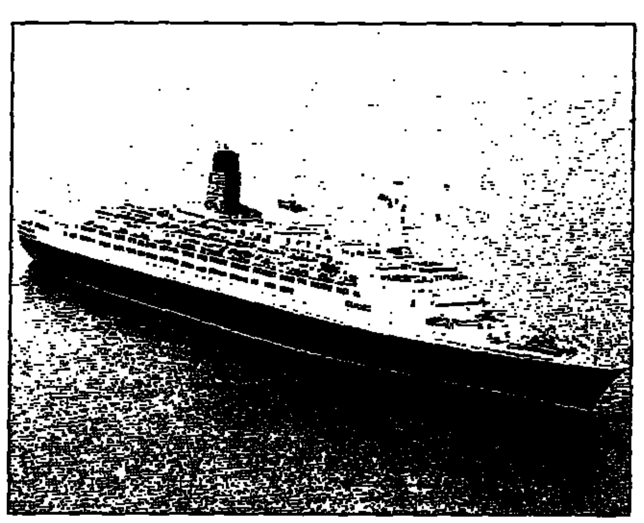
Delhi: Indian scientists have produced a wrist watch that warns its wearer of nuclear radiation and is for use by the Indian Army in the event of a nuclear war. About 2,200 are being made. *(AFP)*

QE2 cruise refunds 'favour passengers from Britain'

From James Bone in New York

A PASSENGER on the chaotic Christmas cruise of the *QE2* is accusing Cunard, the ship's owner, of offering smaller refunds to its American customers than to those who booked their transatlantic voyage in Britain.

Andrew Coad, a British computer expert who has lived in America for the past 12 years, says Cunard has refused him the better settlement terms on offer in Britain because he bought his ticket in the United States. "Cunard is adopting a policy of divide-and-conquer." Mr Coad travelled on the *QE2* with his wife Virginia and their two children, Jonathan and Kristin, on the ill-fated voyage during which workmen struggled to finish a refit costing millions of pounds.


Passengers had a chaotic journey on the luxury liner as workmen struggled to complete a refit

Mr Coad said that when the liner docked in Manhattan on December 22, John Olsen, Cunard's chief executive, offered passengers a full refund on the transatlantic crossing and a 25 per cent discount on a future Cunard cruise.

Later, a fellow passenger, Andrew Lennox, negotiated a better settlement through the Cunard office in London which provided for a full refund, a free transatlantic cruise this year, or an additional cash payment valued at 50 per cent of the refund. Estimating the difference at up to $10,000 (£6,400), Mr Coad telephoned Cunard only to be told that the New York office would not honour an agreement made in Britain.

"Since most of the passengers who booked in the United States are American citizens, it appears that this action is unfair discrimination against US citizens," Mr Coad said. Cunard was unable to make an immediate comment on Mr Coad's charges.

Texans gets dead serious on crime

By James Bone

TEXANS, long known for their love of "frontier justice", are flocking to join a new vigilante group that offers its members a $5,000 (£3,250) reward for killing a criminal in the course of committing a crime.

Nearly 800 people in the Dallas-Fort Worth area have joined "Dead Serious" in the few weeks since it was set up by a part-time rock musician and convicted burglar named Darrell Frank.

For $10 a year, members get two "Dead Serious" bumper stickers and a newsletter. But the main attraction is the $5,000 bounty.

"Through our programme of giving $5,000 to any Dead Serious member forced to kill a criminal (in accordance with Texas penal code chapter 9), we are serving notice that we are through being afraid," boasts the group's publicity. "We are fighting back and will win."

The offer, although controversial, is completely legal. Texas law permits the use of lethal force in self-defence or, at night-time only, to defend private property.

Emphasising that its members are law-abiding citizens, Dead Serious says it will pay out only when the authorities clear the killer of a criminal of any criminal misconduct.

But it does warn members: "If you only wound someone, that same criminal could sue you, come back and kill you, or commit other crimes which, when he is caught, would cost taxpayers to prosecute."

Mr Frank, 35, runs the group with his cousin Herb and his wife Vickie. He insists that he is just trying to scare criminals with the ultimate deterrent.

Asked about his own burglary conviction in 1977, he shrugs off the possibility that he himself might now be dead if he had been caught red-handed by a Dead Serious member.

"If my life had been on the line, it would have made a difference in me committing a crime," he said.

☐ **New York:** Highly-paid informants are gaining increasing control over their government handlers, according to *The National Law Journal*. The journal says "law enforcement's reliance on informants has grown to almost Orwellian proportions as snitches exert growing control over agents". *(Reuter)*

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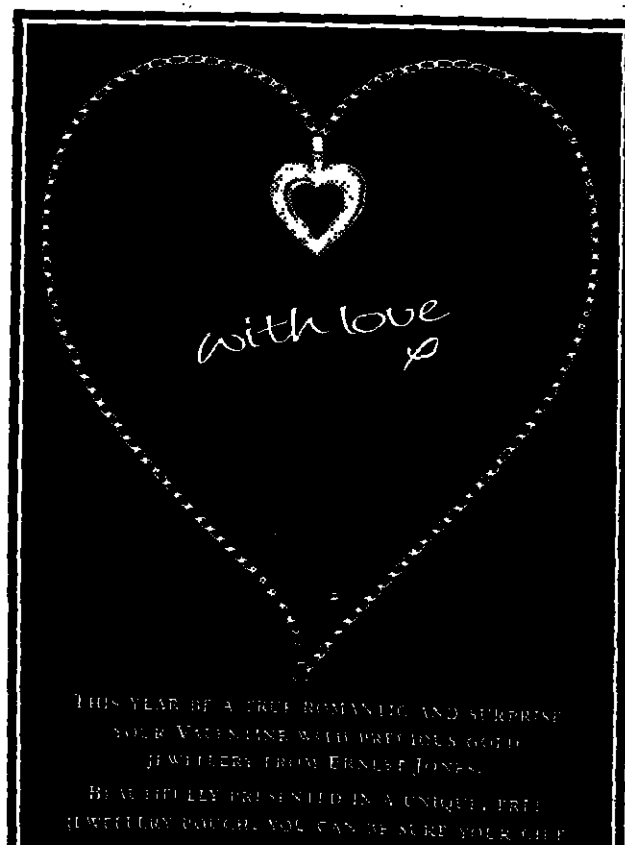
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FEBRUARY 13 1995

Politician alleges cover-up in Gandhi murder

PLO claims accord in danger of 'complete collapse' following failure of summit

Clinton strives to revive Israeli talks with Arafat

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON stepped into the Middle East peace process yesterday with what officials described as an attempt to "kick-start" deadlocked negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

He attended a one-day meeting in Washington that also brought together the Foreign Ministers of Israel, Egypt and Jordan, plus a senior PLO negotiator. White House aides denied that Mr Clinton would be putting forward specific proposals, but he was clearly hoping to persuade Israel and its Arab neighbours to overcome problems that are jeopardising further progress towards peace. American intervention to try to reconcile the adversaries was prompted by the failure to find any resolution during last Thursday's meeting between Yassir Arafat, PLO chairman, and Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

The two sides are at odds over the consequences of the Islamic Jihad suicide bomb attack that killed 21 Israelis more than three weeks ago. Israel is demanding a Palestinian crackdown on Muslim militant groups and has sealed off Gaza and the West Bank for security reasons.

The ban is keeping tens of thousands of Palestinians from their jobs in Israel, including a man who has won £1.3 million in the Israeli lottery. He must deliver the winning ticket within six months or forfeit the prize.

The PLO is demanding an immediate halt to Israel building new settlements on Palestinian lands.

The dispute is blocking organisation of Palestinian elections, next stage of the Israel-PLO peace agreement signed on the White House lawn. Palestinian officials issued a warning before yesterday's meeting that the peace process faced "complete collapse" because Israel was insisting on keeping troops in West Bank towns during the elections. This is a shift, brought about by the bombing, from Israel's undertaking in the agreement to withdraw them. The Clinton Administration is also coming under pressure from Congress to commit itself to moving the American Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem when Israeli-Palestinian talks on the city's contested status conclude.

New York's two senators, Alfonse D'Amato and Daniel Moynihan, are gathering signatures for a letter to Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State. The Administration is reluctant to prejudge the emotional issue of Jerusalem, sacred to Jews and Muslims as well as Christians.

Some in the PLO have proposed the novel idea that city should be the capital of two countries, Israel and Palestine, simultaneously.

In Bonn, Mahmoud Zahar, leader of Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist group, said yesterday it would boycott any elections in Palestinian self-rule areas.

New York: Human rights conditions in the Palestinian self-rule areas are so precarious they threaten to undermine peace initiatives in the area, Human Rights Watch-Middle East, said yesterday. The international monitoring group blamed both the Palestinian and Israeli officials for violations including unlawful arrests and repression. *(AFP)*

Doron Goldin, of the outlawed Kach movement, holds up a prayer book as he is led into a Jerusalem court yesterday. He was arrested with home-made bombs

Egyptians spurn peace dividend

FROM GENEIVE ABDO IN CAIRO

Israel and Egypt may no longer be a military threat to each other, but the economic and cultural benefits of the peace are all but non-existent.

Belly dancers offered up to £65,000 to shake their hips in Israeli night clubs are refusing to take the hour's plane ride to Tel Aviv. A playwright who published a novel about his adventures in Israel now has three bodyguards. Fifteen years after Egypt became the first Arab country to make peace with the nation often referred to here as "the Zionist enemy", Egyptians are being left behind in reaping the benefits of the peace dividend.

The Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement signed at Camp David in 1979 never developed into wide economic and cultural co-operation. Since the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed a peace plan with Israel in 1993, Egypt has played the role of peacemaker. But as peace between Arabs and Jews sweeps the Middle East, Egypt has become taciturn over its relationship with the Jewish state.

While Egypt's private business sector is anxious to trade its wares with its Israeli partners in a common Middle East market, the Government and society are opposed to normalising relations. Egyptian writers, artists and intellectuals are also finding it difficult to change with the times. Books by Israeli authors were banned from Egypt's international book fair recently and Israeli films were excluded from the Cairo film festival in December.

"We are not against peace, but against Israeli greed," Hamdi Gheith, director of the Egyptian actors' syndicate, said. "Israel still clings to the Golan and considers Jerusalem, which has holy sites important to Arabs and Muslims, its capital. Israel still insists on setting up new settlements as well as expanding old ones," Mr Gheith said, referring to the expansion of Jewish homes in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. "Only when Israel gives up all this, can there be normalisation."

Members of Egypt's literati have harshly criticised Ali Salem, an Egyptian playwright for his book *Journey to Israel*. Mr Salem visited Israel last April. When he returned, he wrote a novel detailing his adventures and dispelling many myths that Egyptians have about Israelis.

The novel has caused such a stir that bookshops hide copies under the counter. Sales number at least 25,000 so far, but copies are sold only on request. Mr Salem has been criticised harshly by the public and his fellow writers and the Government has providing him with bodyguards.

Iran's nuclear accord with Russia heightens US fears

BY IAN BRODIE

RUSSIA'S agreement to build nuclear reactors for Iran has caused concern in Washington that the deal will bring Tehran closer to possessing nuclear weapons.

Senior Republicans in Congress said that American economic assistance to Russia could be threatened as a result. The Clinton Administration is deeply worried by the deal with the Government of President Rafsanjani, Strobe Talbott, the Deputy Secretary of State in charge of organising the aid to President Yeltsin, said.

Despite repeated and strong objections by the US Government, Moscow is proceeding with a plan to help Iran to complete a nuclear power station in the Gulf port of Bushehr that has lain half-finished since the overthrow of the Shah 16 years ago.

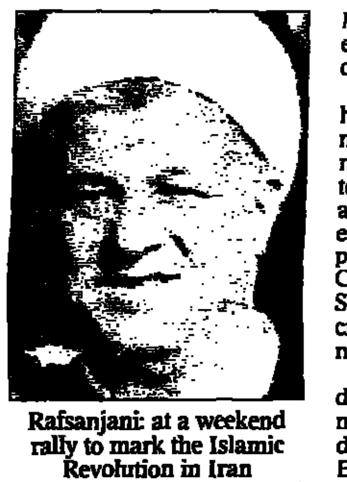
The Russians have agreed to build as many as four commercial reactors on the site, and help to maintain existing small research reactors at Iranian universities in addition to building several more. Nuclear training for Iranian engineers is included in the package

The total cost to Iran could reach $8 billion (£5.1 billion). Mr Talbott questioned whether Iran, for all its oil riches, could afford to pay.

Nothing in the agreement has any direct bearing on military applications of nuclear power, but Washington believes that Iran could acquire expertise that would enable its scientists to make progress with what Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, has called Tehran's crash programme to build nuclear weapons.

Arming Iran's Islamic fundamentalist mullahs with nuclear arms would be deeply destabilising for the Middle East, particularly if Iran learns how to reprocess spent plutonium fuel from its Russian reactors into weapons-grade material.

The Clinton Administration is urging the Yeltsin Government, so far without success, to impose a "fuel take-back" clause in its contract for returning the used fuel to Russia.



Rafsanjani: at a weekend rally to mark the Islamic Revolution in Iran

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Worldwide threat to mountains

Washington: A leading environmental group has issued an urgent appeal to protect the world's mountains, saying a range of human activities, from mining in the Andes to golf courses in the Alps, threaten them with destruction.

Worldwatch Institute said in a report which it will present to a UN-sponsored conference next week that until "the strategic importance and fragility of mountains" is recognised, "a large portion of the world's intact ecosystems will remain at risk". It claimed that mining, hydroelectric projects and warfare were causing widespread deforestation. *(AFP)*

Timor pledge

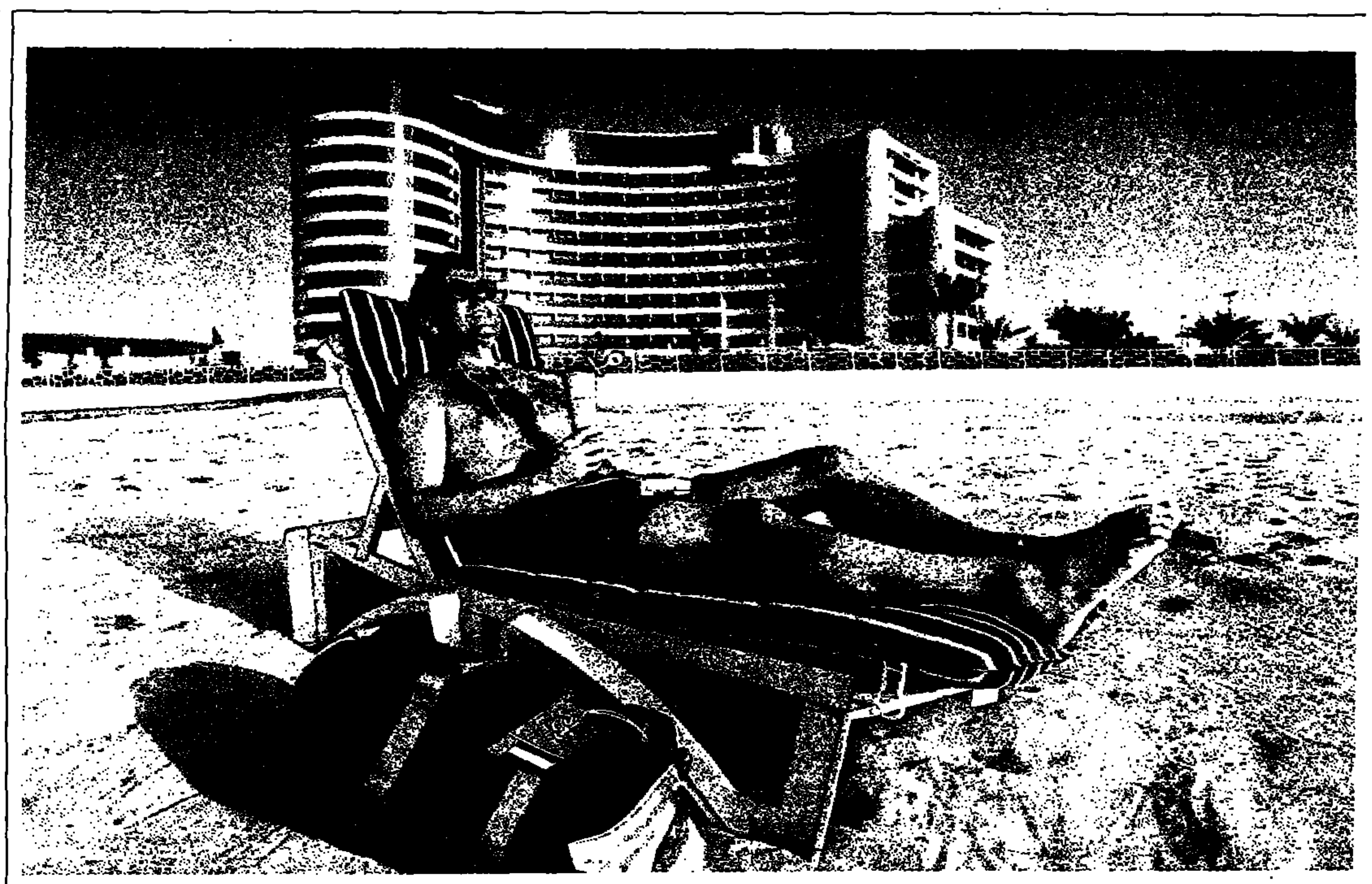
Jakarta: The Indonesian armed forces pledged to discipline any military personnel found to have violated correct procedure in the case of the deaths of six alleged East Timorese guerrillas killed last month. *(AFP)*

Tigers recruit

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have launched a big recruitment drive in the island's eastern province under the protection of a truce with the security forces, sources said. *(AFP)*

Star gazing

Bangkok: Trirak Rakkarndee, a popular actress, joined opponents of a Thai Government plan to limit the use of tinted car windows, saying entertainers often had to change in cars on location. *(Reuter)*



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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD

■ **VISUAL ART**

Make a "Leap into the Void" with Yves Klein at a Hayward Gallery show devoted to the great pioneer

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow

■ **THEATRE**

Up to her neck in gore: Juliet Stevenson takes the title role in *The Duchess of Malfi* at Greenwich

FIRST NIGHT: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

■ **MUSICALS**

Zorro — The Musical, Ken Hill's final extravaganza, opens at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East

FIRST NIGHT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

■ **POP**

If it's February it must be Eric Clapton: a Glasgow gig precedes the veteran's annual Albert Hall residency

GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI. Opening night for Juliet Stevenson as the victimised heroine and Simon Russell Beale her sadistic twin brother. A Philip Franks production that promises to be electrifying; national tour follows
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until Mar 25.

TOGETHER AGAIN. The scintillating pair of Felicity Lott and Ann Murray team up again for another of their duet recitals. A blissful night of serious and not so serious works; with pianist Graham Johnson.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

REP AT THE ROYAL COURT: Last week of performances for the Royal Court's amusing mix of new and old, both inspired by John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester. Stephen Jeffreys's **The Libertine** — the life and times of the 17th-century's most notorious rakehell — is paired with Etherege's wittiest Restoration comedy **The Man of Mode**. Max Stafford-Clark directs.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). *Mode* tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BATH: Millicent Martin, Michael Cashman and Patrick Cargill star in Michael Frayn's **Noises Off**. A deservedly award-winning mix of farce, comedy and slapstick, directed by Peter Wilson for Mobil Touring Theatre.
Theatre Royal, Sawclose (01225 448844). Tonight-Wed, 7.30pm; Thurs-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

GLASGOW: Sheffield's **Compass Theatre Company** continues to show why it fills auditoriums everywhere it goes, with a bold and fascinating double-bill for the spring season. Georg Buchner's *Woyzeck* is an 1836 masterpiece tale of love and war tearing a young soldier's life apart; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has toured since last autumn, to great acclaim.
Tron, Trongate Ⓢ (0141-552 4267). In rep until Sat. Next stop, Hartlepool.

SHEFFIELD: Belinda Lange takes the lead in Terry Johnson's **Dead Funny**, a complex web of connections between sexually arrested comics and their admirers. Now on national tour after last year's West End success.
Lyceum, Norfolk Street (0114 2769922) Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Fri, 2pm. Ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Impressionism in Britain (0171-638-4141) . . . **British Museum**: Chinese Arms and Armour, until Wed (0171-636 1555) . . . **Hayward**: Yves Klein (071-928 3144) . . . **National Gallery**: The Age of Elegance (0171-839 3321) . . . **Royal Academy**: Nicolas Poussin (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate**: New Displays 1995 (0171-887 8000) . . . **V&A**: Nehru Gallery (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

◪ **BROKEN GLASS**: Final performances at the National for Margot Leicester and Henry Goodman in Arthur Miller's latest. Moving to Duke of York's later this month.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight, 7.30pm; tomorrow, 2.15 and 7.30pm. Ⓢ

□ **THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE**: Nigel Hawthorne plays the dilapidated Lord Ogleby and directs a strong cast in this good-hearted comedy about 18th-century greed, snobbery and true love.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm.

◪ ***THE DANCE OF DEATH***: Strindberg's impassioned, sometimes comic, view of marriage as hell. Subtle characterisation by Gemma Jones and John Nevile.
Almeida, Almeida St, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Ⓢ

◪ **FULL MOON**: Jon Strickland plays the hero of Caradog Prichard's powerful and haunting semi-autobiographical novel, set in the slatemine districts of North Wales. Helena Kaut-Howson's Theatr Clwyd production comes to London after a sell-out tour.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, from Feb 18, 2.30pm. Until Mar 4. Ⓢ

□ ***THE LIVE BED SHOW***. Arthur Smith's revised version of his 1989 Edinburgh Festival comedy: Caroline Quentin and Paul Merton play a couple on their journey towards sharing a bed.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 6.30pm and 8.45pm.

□ **LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST**: Jenny Agutter returns to the RSC with new cast for final performances of Ian Judge's pleasing production
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight and Tue, 7.15pm. Ⓢ

□ **MAMA I WANT TO SING**: The longest-running Off-Broadway black musical, based on the life of the Harlem singer Doris Troy (who here plays her own mother). With Chaka Khan.
Cambridge, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Tue and Sat, 3pm. Until Apr 8.

□ **THE THREE LIVES OF LUCIE CABROL**: Award-winning performance from Lilo Baur in Simon McBurney's thrilling production on the loves and anguish of peasant life. From Theatre de Complicite.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 6pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

■ **THE THREEPENNY OPERA**: Phyllida Lloyd's splendidly inventive revival of Kurt Weill's opera. Tom Hollander sings Macheath and words by "Bertolt Brecht".
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

DALLAS DOLL (18): Golf guru Sandra Bernhard liberates the Sydney suburbs. A botched affair from Ann Turner.
Metro (071-437 0757)

HEAVENLY CREATURES (18): Strange, fatal friendship of two New Zealand teenagers. Compelling, imaginative, true-life drama from director Peter Jackson.
Gate Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **MGM Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** Ⓢ (0171-435 3366)

SOLITAIRE FOR 2 (15): Body-language lecturer pursues archaeologist with ESP. Awkward comedy from *Pig Farmer* co-director Gary Sinyor. With Mark Frankel and Amanda Pays
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0800 888997) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **STAR TREK: GENERATIONS** (PG): Talky but acceptable film debut for the stars of television's *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Patrick Stewart meets William Shatner.
Empire Ⓢ (0800 888911) **MGM Baker St** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE** (18): Tom Cruise shows Brad Pitt the vampire way of life. Dull, over-stuffed version of Anne Rice's book.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Baker St** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **LEON** (18): Precious child shelters under a hitman's wing. Sleek, empty thriller shot in New York by French director Luc Besson. With Jean Reno, Natalie Portman and Gary Oldman.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **ONLY YOU** (PG): Marisa Tomei chases the man of her dreams through Italy. Lazy blend of comedy, romance and travelogue, with Robert Downey Jr. Director, Norman Jewison.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THE ROAD TO WELLVILLE** (18). Frolics and chicanery at a turn-of-the-century sanitarium. Overdone health food satire, with Anthony Hopkins
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Sq** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (792 3332)

◆ **STARGATE** (PG): Galactic adventures of Kurt Russell and James Spader. Preposterous, derivative but fun; Roland Emmerich directs.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

DONALD COOPER

South African tenor Johan Botha makes an impressive house debut as Rodolfo with Angela Gheorghiu as Mimì

A night of big events

OPERA: **Rodney Milnes** sees some notable performances save a routine revival of *La Bohème* at Covent Garden

It is perhaps best to approach this revival not so much as a performance of Puccini's opera (the 494th at Covent Garden, and not one of the more memorable), rather as a collection of not entirely unconnected events.

The conductor Simone Young is definitely an event: you do not have to agree with everything she does (I certainly don't) but you have to recognise a forceful, very positive musical mind at work. Her technique is impressive: everything is together, she contrives ideal balance between pit and stage, and she has a real feeling for the colour — and hence the purpose — of Puccini's instrumentation. The orchestra reward her with attentive and appreciative playing.

The crispness of ensemble is all the more impressive given that hers is by no means a conventional reading. It is, perhaps, a touch Teutonic, apparently working on the principle that the more *Bohème* sounds like a Mahler symphony, the "better" we shall respect it. This ain't necessarily so. Individual phrases are wrenched out of context, lovingly sculpted, held up for our admiration. Speeds are slow, very slow indeed in the later acts. Fine, Tullio Serafin never hurried his Puccini, but he always maintained a steady forward flow, whereas Young's tends to proceed by fits and starts. Kleiber *fils* also memorably took *Bohème* to pieces in this house, but he put it back together again. Young hasn't, yet. The names I am citing indicate that while I'm not convinced by Young's reading, I respect her for her individual musical personality and for having a go.

Angela Gheorghiu's Mimì is also an event. Her voice is quite lovely, at once darksome and luminous, and she is intensely musical. Her seamstress is no shrinking violet, but a capable, clever woman in command of everything save her physical health, an impersonation that could well fit into the production, if there were one.

And Johan Botha's house debut as Rodolfo is a big event. This young South African tenor fields robust, golden tone and sounds as if he is actually looking forward to his top notes instead of dreading them. Young's leisurely speeds caused him no worries: he sang tirelessly, invigoratingly. He's a roly-poly bear of a man with a cheerful, open-featured stage persona.

Anthony Michaels-Moore's Marcello, phrased with his customary musicianship, is partnered by Marie McLaughlin, singing her first Musetta. With each succeeding performance she will surely sing with even more brilliance and point.

Only the barest outlines of the 21-year-old production remain visible now, and the parts do not add up to a coherent whole. But the company have to keep rolling it out — they can't afford not to.

DANCE

Overhaul advised

CELEBRATING a tenth birthday may seem a premature excuse for a facelift, but dance companies age faster than humans. What parts should Union Dance attend to? The creases, the crow's feet or the full structure? In one respect it could do with a fundamental overhaul. It needs to redefine an identity that has become nebulous.

Ten years ago, echoing its name, this company made multi-racialness a declaration of artistic faith, to be reflected by its performers and repertoire. Today, the dancers still span a broad ethnic spectrum, but so do others elsewhere; while Union's programme at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, launching this year's Spring Loaded dance festival, could have belonged to any number of other companies.

Union Dance
Queen Elizabeth Hall

True, the climax of the evening, Doug Elkins's *A Knot Annulled* (receiving its premiere) stands as a monument to cross-culturalism. But so does all of Elkins's choreography. In subscribing to it, Union is now like many other companies. If it wants to find its distinctiveness again, it needs to plunge deeper into its differently cultural soils, or else drop the ethnic preoccupation altogether.

A Knot Annulled is melting-pot dance, a paean to eclecticism that thrives on incongruity. Elkins mixes and matches abrupt sentiments of classical music, reggae and funk with choreography that liquidises jazz dance, street dance and whatever into an exotic, improbable milkshake.

Elkins projects life-enhancing variety, but David Nurse's *Red, Blue and Ochre* suffocated us with monotony. It told us nothing about the choreographer (a company dancer), contrary to the remaining piece, *Soon*, Bill T. Jones's deeply personal statement about death and separation.

Originally made as a duet, Jones reworked *Soon* for Union in 1992 as a piece for two couples. Perhaps because Union's dancers are not as fluently assured as Jones's own group, perhaps because the revised choreography is more diffuse, *Soon* seems less seamless, but it still delivers a punch.

NADINE MEISNER

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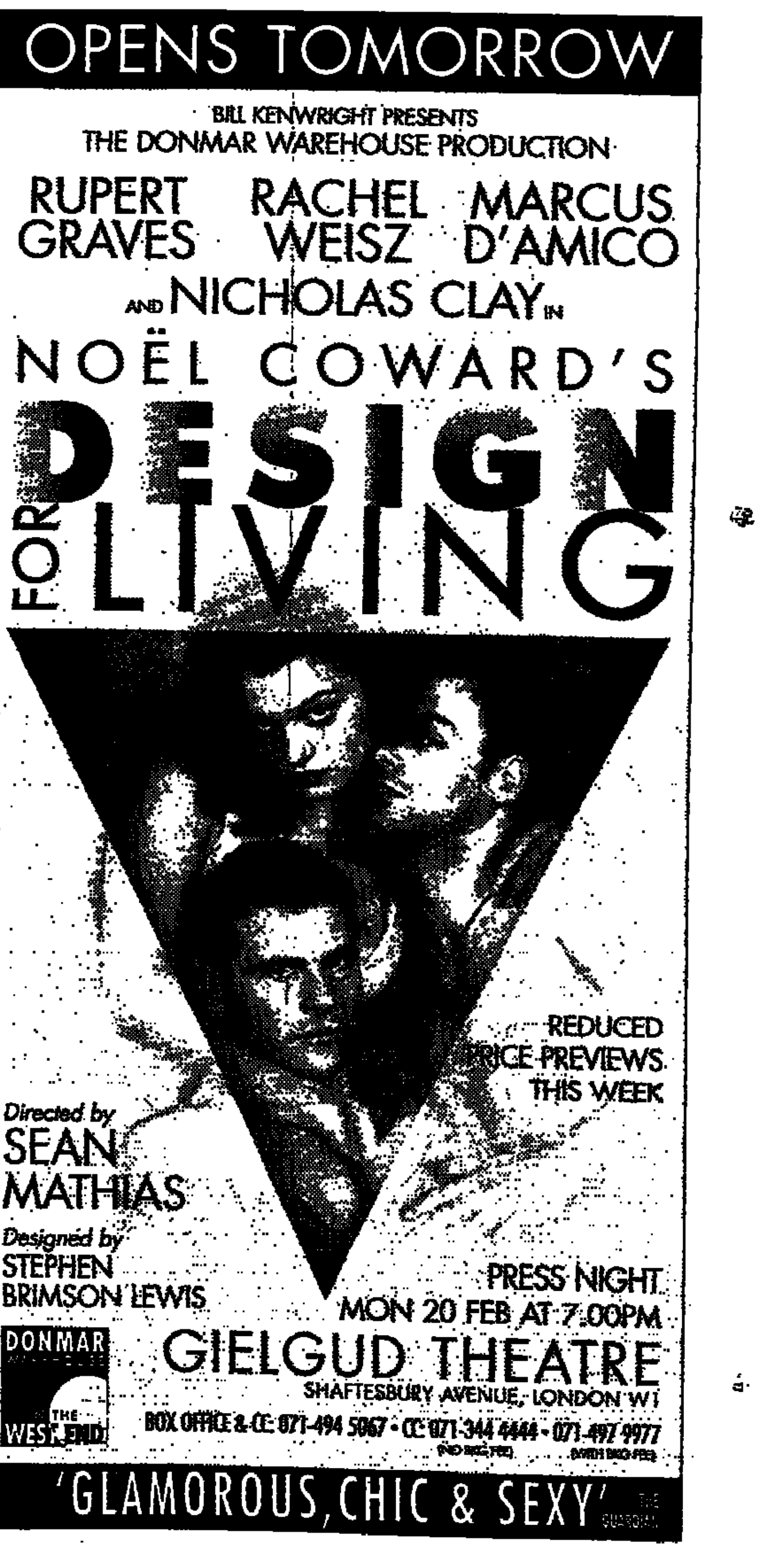

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What would Kipling *have said? Disney* presents its new, modernised version of *The Jungle Book*

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The fast-rising Royal Ballet soloist Sarah Wildor makes her debut as Giselle at Covent Garden

OPENS: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday

■ BOOKS

The importance of things being various: Jon Stallworthy brings out his biography of the poet Louis Macneice

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

THEATRE: Marber plays his cards too close to his chest; Charnock's chapters — and worse

Chips with not quite enough

DONALD COOPER

Upping the ante: Nicholas Day, David Bark-Jones, Ray Winstone, Phil Daniels, Nigel Lindsay and Tom Georgeson in *Dealer's Choice*

One of the pleasures of theatregoing is that you can pitch your tent for an evening in a world where you would never dream of taking up permanent residence. If the author is a David Mamet, and really knows his stuff, you may find yourself visiting real-estate offices, junk shops, lakeboats, Chicago bars, politically correct universities, palm-readers' parlours and grubby offices in downtown Hollywood.

But not even Mamet, although reportedly a wizard with the cards, has yet drawn us into a world where the codewords range from Hedgehog to Omaha, Chicago to Oldham. It has been left to a Briton, Patrick Marber, to accept the vacant post of bard of the poker table.

On the evidence of *Dealer's Choice*, he is a sharp, witty writer with something still to learn about the craft of playmaking. On the same evidence, the world of amateur poker is best avoided, since the losers at the table seem also to be losers in life and the winners don't gain anything worth winning. Myself, I tend to think that a royal flush is something that happens to queens and princesses when they go through the menopause: and, if that is ignorance, Marber's play encourages me to believe it is bliss.

Dealer's Choice
Cottesloe

Bunny Christie, who designs, has transformed a slice of Cottesloe first into the kitchen and dining-room, then into the basement, of a London restaurant. Half the play is spent edgily preparing for the game, the other half sitting with chips and cards around a slowly revolving table. The players are the owner, his son, the chef, two waiters and a sinister customer who has outstayed his welcome. To put it another way, they are an urbanely obsessed Nicholas Day, a feckless David Bark-Jones, a sullen Ray Winstone, a fly Phil Daniels, a babbling Nigel Lindsay, and Tom Georgeson as deathly as his name, which is Ash.

Marber writes immensely entertaining dialogue, but this is his first play and he is not yet so adept when it comes to generating tension. The production, his own, does not leave you exactly agog to discover if Winstone's Sweeney will lose the money he plans to spend on taking his five-year-old to the zoo. It does not even engage you as fully as it should in the main plot, which involves an appallingly devious attempt by Bark-Jones's gambloholic Carl to help Ash, a professional to whom he owes thousands, take his father and friends to the cleaners.

While I'm in a cavilling vein, let me point out a few holes in the dramatic fabric. How can a restaurant with such awful waiters flourish? Why has Ash given money and succour to Carl? What is the nature of the friendship between Sweeney and Daniels's Frankie, who seem to live together? Marber does make some efforts to explore his characters and to acknowledge their need to manipulate, dominate, or destroy themselves: but too often he opts for what comes easiest to him. That's to say, he spends a disproportionate amount of time sending up Lindsay's Mugsy, who is getting together the cash to transform a public loo on the Mile End Road into an eaterie he proposes to call the Bow Thai. But the character's unselfconscious idiocies do provoke loads of laughter. So does Marber's quick, jabbing repartee.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Feeling more than a little cross

MARILYN KINGWILL

Nigel Charnock: *manic monologues on perverse themes*

Hell Bent
Drill Hall, WCI

NIGEL CHARNOCK goes to bed with a crucifix. It is no small pendant round the neck. This is Nigel Charnock, after all, the daringly experimental dancer-actor who has had a cult following since his DV8 days. And this is *Hell Bent*, his solo show which combines modern dance, tongue-in-cheek torchsongs and manic monologues in order to explore the perversions of passion.

It completes the trilogy that began with *Resurrection* (1991) and *Original Sin* (1993). So in *Hell Bent* there is a man-size rood on the single mattress. Nigel, here a drag artist coming home to an empty bedsit, obsessively burdened with the absence of a lover, makes love to a cross in his dreams.

This is, of course, shocking. That is a quality Charnock thoroughly enjoys. But, as he fervently kisses and winds his limbs around the hard wood — his skin startlingly pale — he also becomes a potent vision of human love: of adoration and grief, of agony and ecstasy crossed; of the clinging intimacy of intercourse and of emotionally desperate loneliness.

Moreover, the iconoclasm is directed not at Christianity. Rather, *Hell Bent* worries the modern creed of romantic love: our collapse when the crutch of a relationship is pulled away; our belief in some messiah-like Mr Right.

Charnock courts danger, artistically and autobiographically. He hurls himself from heights, jumping off top-steps into darkness, or repeatedly slamming himself against the floor. His verbally whirling monologues teeter on the brink of confessional self-exposure and indulgent egocentricity. But his saving grace is his self-parodying delirious silliness. There is a charming lightness about him, with his dandelion head of fly-away albino-white hair. He is a cartoon of a social saddy. Shoulders nerdily hunched and hands flailing, he witters away to himself like a bitchily camp womble going round the bend.

The spoken scenes don't plumb the depths of pain conveyed in Charnock's dance. He makes a slick soft-porn showgirl routine bristle with anger. And there is a deeply disturbing moment when he asphyxiates himself with his head in a freezer bag, his face distorted like a gargoyle. Many episodes need pruning. A long orgasm-obsessed speech verges on the puerile. Yet Charnock's charisma and playfulness carry him through. And he sings, Shirley Bassey style, with terrific assurance. An immensely talented man.

KATE BASSETT

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Bird watching without tears

Hallé/Benjamin
Manchester

THE Hallé audience knows by now what to expect from a concert conducted by the orchestra's chief guest artist. So those who are not likely to enjoy prolonged bursts of birdsong or complex constructions on the ambiguity of time stay away from the Free Trade Hall. There are empty seats, obviously, but those who want to hear what George Benjamin has to offer — and it is never less than interesting and always intelligently compiled — at least have the opportunity to listen in a positive atmosphere without the distraction of the marks of silent protest, the pained head-shaking and the conspicuous expressions of distaste.

If Benjamin's own recent piece, *Sudden Time*, caused any pain it was of the intellectual rather than the aural kind: the concept behind it is undeniably difficult to understand. But, whatever the nature of time, music can be experienced only as a succession of events. It cannot be heard all at once or, though it might well be written in that way, in several different zones simultaneously. The temporal complexity of *Sudden Time* sounds like textural or harmonic complexity and the ear, while appreciating the abundance of the ideas and the brilliant contrivance of the sonorities, waits for significant single events. There are just enough, some of them of striking melodic beauty, to encourage the listener to stay to the end, which is a delicately accomplished easing out on a viola solo with a gentle pattering of Indian drums.

Benjamin's teacher, Olivier Messiaen, was a pioneer in layering different time zones, but not in the work presented in this programme. Rarely heard these days, *Réveil des oiseaux* is a straightforward, consecutive record of birdsong events from midnight to midday in the woods of the Ile de France in summer. It is also a kind of piano concerto, with six cadenzas distributed through the four movements, beginning on this occasion with a rather nervous nightingale. Yvonne Loriod, the composer's widow, asserted her soloist authority in good time for the central and most interesting event of the piece, the dawn chorus, and the conductor achieved a poetically conclusive understatement of woodpeckers and cuckoos in the near-silence of midday.

Being so well prepared and so highly accomplished in those two unfamiliar scores, the Hallé might have been forgiven if it had been below its best in the Ravel and Stravinsky items. There were one or two small accidents, but whatever Benjamin asked it to do, it did.

GERALD LARNER

Bewitching Dido

King's Consort
Wigmore Hall

WITH performances of *Dido and Aeneas* two a penny, one expects something special if its programming is to be justified. The penultimate concert of the Wigmore's Purcell Festival offered something very special: a performance with novelty value, yet grounded in musical understanding.

The chief novelty lay in the casting of the Sorceress. This traditionally mezzo role has been reassigned to a baritone in some recent performances. But it was an inspired stroke to allocate it here to the countertenor Dominique Visse. Visse's timbre has a somewhat weird, unearthly quality. Give him a supernatural part to play and he is the embodiment of spookiness, and almost managed to convince one that Purcell might have had his kind of voice in mind. His two Witches, Susan Gritton and Tessa Bonner, cackled merrily alongside.

The other novelty was the use of the Epilogue by Purcell's contemporary Tom D'Urfey, declaimed stylishly by Laurence Ash over the Cupids' Dance. D'Urfey's text is no funereal epitaph, but has a dig at, first, Roman Catholicism and then — can you believe it? — critics.

But though we were sent away with a smile on our lips, there was no reining in of the tragic passion in the foregoing action. With fluidly shaped and marvellously characterised instrumental support from the King's Consort under Robert King, and three star performers in the principal roles, the stage was set for as moving a *Dido* as I can recall.

Lynne Dawson, as the tragic queen, rose to her considerable best with a reading of dignified but intense melancholy. Aeneas's part may be less substantial, but Michael George made every word count. Nancy Argenta was the responsive Belinda, and the treble David Nickless sang the Sailor's part superbly.

Earlier we heard the relatively little-known Welcome Song, *Why, Why are all the Muses Mute?* Like so much of Purcell's output, the work deserves to be far better known, particularly for the alto solo *Britain, thou now art great*, sung ravishingly by Robin Blaze.

BARRY MILLINGTON

POP: Glaswegians hit the heights

Climb every mountain

Del Amitri
Fort William, Inverness-shire

GLASWEGIAN guitar-slappers Del Amitri had to sing for their haggis last week in the most unlikely gig of their career: at the Snow Goose, the highest restaurant in Britain, three-quarters of the way up Aonach Mor, the less celebrated neighbour of Ben Nevis.

More unreal yet, the audience of record company representatives here to sample *Twisted*, the group's follow-up, released on February 27, to the popular 1992 album, *Everything Changes*, was augmented by winners of a Radio Clyde contest for tickets to this "mystery" gig. The spirit of Brinsley Schwarz, the band infamously celebrated by a collective wild goose chase by the press to New York a quarter of a century ago, seemed to be among us.

Could this altitudinous Happy Eater of a show send a message to the world that this band are set to scale new peaks in guitar rock? For all their sales and a succession of accomplished single releases, their modest refusal to adopt rock-god attitudes and build a strong image leaves some people still believing that their name is a familiar form of some London nightclub crooner christened *Derek Amitri*.

Lead singer Justin Currie did his best to banish the what-are-we-doing-here blues by braving the crowd in tam-o'-shanter and kilt. This sartorial gambit was not matched by much generosity of spirit from the ticket winners, who kept a polite distance from the band at stage front, and applauded just a little too politely to scare up any special atmosphere.

Neither was this the kind of full-on group performance to which fans will be treated on Del Amitri's healthily-subscribed March tour of some of Britain's less snow-capped venues. Instead, it was a less than natural showcase for most of the songs from *Twisted*, and the evening would have had more snap if more than just two hit memories had been thrown on the fire.

Nevertheless, the group's playing was spirited from the moment they opened with an acoustic version of the new record's lead track, *Food for Songs*. The new top-40 single *Here and Now* will soon be an anthemic part of their repertoire, while fresh songs such as *Driving with the Brakes On* and the study in solitude, *Crashing Down*, bring new depth to their canon. But they could have celebrated their journey to this point in their career with more than merely *Just Like a Man* and *Always the Last to Know*.

One up for the strange-but-true club, but it made a change, instead of scrambling for the last Tube home, to be competing for the final cable car down the mountain.

PAUL SEXTON

OVERTURES

Plenty of Wilde life

TOMORROW, Westminster Abbey honours **Oscar Wilde** with a stained-glass panel in Poets' Corner, a century on from the premiere of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This is just one of many Wilde tributes currently being planned. Two separate feature films are in the works — one with **Hugh Grant** and **Liam Neeson** to be written by **David Hare**; the other co-starring **Kenneth Branagh** and **Stephen Fry**, and possibly with Branagh directing.

Hare approached **Nicholas Hytner** about directing his film. But Hytner is said to be interested in asking **Alan Bennett** to do the scriptwriting on *another* Wilde film-biography. In April, meanwhile, **Peter Hall**'s 1992 production of *An Ideal Husband* goes to Broadway, and a new *Importance of Being Earnest*, directed by **Terry Hands**, is planned for May in Birmingham.

Also of interest will be producer **Annie Paul**'s BBC2 film about Wilde, to be aired probably on April 3. Paul's film, which begins at the Café Royal, will end at Westminster Abbey with footage of tomorrow's event. Dame **Judi Dench** and Dame **Iris Murdoch** are among those due to appear, alongside Wilde's grandson **Merlin Holland**.

● THE reclusive **Annie Lennox**, back in the news with the single *No More I Love Yous*, is to release her own version of that fashionable commodity, an album of cover versions, next month. However, the tone of *Medusa* will be somewhat more highbrow than other recent efforts. Among the songs featured will be Joni Mitchell's *Ladies of the Canyon* and that polished chestnut, Procol Harem's *A Whiter Shade of Pale*.

● A MAJOR London revival of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* may star **Diana Rigg** and **Alan Bates**, if West End producer Robert Fox's plans are successful. The play was last seen in London at the Young Vic with **Billie Whitelaw** and **Patrick Stewart**. If it happens, the revival would have to wait until spring 1996, when Dame Diana has finished her National Theatre chores in *Mother Courage*.

Meanwhile, **Ruthie Henshall**, the toothsome star of *She Loves Me*, and **Jacqueline Dankworth**, Cleo Laine's daughter, have been suggested as stars with **Judi Dench** and **Ian McKellen** in *A Little Night Music* this summer at the National. Also on the Sondheim front: it looks as if **Jeremy Sams** may direct *Passion* if it gets to the West End.

● WITH her single *Think Twice* and album *The Colour of My Love* topping both pop charts simultaneously, Canadian star **Celine Dion** has announced her first-ever British tour. In May she will appear at the Birmingham Symphony Hall (19), Nottingham Royal Concert Hall (20), Glasgow Royal Concert Hall (22), Manchester Apollo (23) and Hammersmith Apollo (25).

ISLE LISTEN TO TIPPETT.

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China's preference for male babies poses a social threat □ Dinosaur traces may be human fingerprints □ Ancestors dallied at the gates of Europe

THE Football Association has resolved to find "the root cause" of the trouble that marred last week's match between Chelsea and Millwall, when fans invaded the pitch. I can tell them. In a word, it's testosterone.

Young men with the sap rising and no wars to fight are a notoriously incendiary bunch. To blame the male sex hormone is, of course, a cop-out, but when did you last hear of a netball crowd on the rampage? A large proportion of violent crime is committed by men between the age of puberty and the coming of wisdom, which is some cases are quite a few years apart.

This brings me to a paper in last week's issue of *Science*, and reported in Saturday's issue of *The Times*, which ought to be compulsory reading in Peking, and in the capitals of other countries where public policy and modern medical technology are creating a dangerous imbalance between the sexes.

Danger of too many boys

SCIENCE BRIEFING

◆

Nigel Hawkes

By the year 2010, the authors of the article conclude, there will be an annual surplus of about one million Chinese men unable to find marriage partners. This, they warn, will pose "social and cultural challenges" in a country already undergoing rapid economic and political change.

A million surplus men a year with no women to marry strikes me as a recipe for some very tricky social problems indeed. Riots at football matches may be the least of them.

Normally, sex ratios at birth — the number of live male births for every 100 female births — is about 105. In China in 1990, it rose to 113.8 for firstborn children, and even higher for subsequent births. This imbalance implies many millions of "missing" females, say Doctors Shripad Tuljapurkar, Nan Li, and Marcus Feldman, of the Morrison Institute for Population and Resource Studies, at Stanford University.

Similar patterns have been observed in India, Bangladesh, and South Korea. What has happened is that people's desire for sons in countries where they provide the best security in old age has combined with the ability to determine sex at an early stage of pregnancy. Selective abortion has ensured that more boys than girls are born — and in China, many girls who are born alive are encouraged to die.

The policy of controlling population by discouraging people from having more than one child has intensified the pressures. The result, the authors say, is that in a country where virtually everybody marries, one in 12 of males will not be able to.

Could this be avoided if marriages were delayed, or if men chose to marry women from different age groups? The analysis shows that this would make little difference. Nor, without a cultural revolution, will we see the shortage being met by the immigration of wives from abroad. Chinese men — at least in China — do not tend to marry foreign wives.

In an attempt to discourage the desire for sons, the Chinese Government targets social security programmes specifically at those who have no sons. But the three demographers conclude that this has not had any significant effect. They warn that the sex ratio may get even further out of balance in the future.

DNA riddle

LAST year dinosaur-hunter Scott Woodward, of Brigham Young University, took a leaf out of *Jurassic Park* by extracting what appeared to be the DNA of a dinosaur from bones found in a Utah coal mine.

True, he didn't go as far as reconstructing the creature, but even getting the DNA from bones 80 million years old was an achievement. Now another expert on ancient DNA, Svante Paabo, of Munich University, has claimed that Woodward's dinosaur DNA is really a little bit of human DNA. This was always a possibility, because the techniques used to multiply the tiny fragments found in old bones run the risk of multiplying instead traces of human contamination accidentally transferred to the bones.

The gene Woodward found was that responsible for producing the enzyme cytochrome B, which is involved in the production of energy in the cell and is normally found in the cell's powerhouses, the mitochondria. Human beings also have this gene in the DNA in the nucleus of their cells, and *New Scientist* reports that Dr Paabo has concluded that the human gene is identical to Dr Woodward's dinosaur DNA.

Dr Woodward apparently does not agree that contamination has taken place. He is sticking to his guns, and says that he has compared his "dinosaur DNA" with the cytochrome B sequences of various mammals, and the one it is closest to is the whale. He now plans to try to extract other DNA sequences from the bones to prove his case.

Cold facts

THE discovery of an ancient hominid jaw in Georgia, in the Caucasus, has deepened the mystery of why man's ancestors took so long to populate Europe. The jaw, from the species *Homo erectus*, is 1.8 million years old, making it as old as any remains ever found outside Africa. Yet *Homo erectus* took at least another million years to spread across Europe. The earliest evidence in Britain is Boxgrove Man, who lived half a million years ago.

The jaw was found by Dr Leo Gabunia and colleagues at the Georgian Academy of Sciences in Tbilisi. It was found in eastern Georgia, where excavations into grain storage pits created 1,000 years ago revealed much more ancient remains in the sides of the pits. One of these was the jaw which, they report in *Nature*, belonged to *Homo erectus* and has been dated by three independent methods to 1.8 million years old.

But if early man was at the gates of Europe as early as this, what kept him? One problem may have been the climate, which was simply too frozen for the primitive people to survive long. Another may have been wild-animals which made Europe too dangerous a place to live, and would have attacked any relatively slow-moving creature. Europe may be the home of civilisation, but it evidently wasn't civilised enough then for *Homo erectus*.

The building blocks of life in outer space

Many of the elements found on Earth exist in a rich interstellar chemistry, says **Hugh Aldersey-Williams**

SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

Cosmic laboratory: a marriage of chemistry and astronomy has led to the discovery of familiar molecules in regions such as the Horsehead Nebula

This month marks the centenary of the discovery of helium, the second lightest of all the elements, and the first of the inert gases. The discovery has its origins in 1868. Behind the apparent anomaly of marking the centenary 27 years late lies a lasting fusion of chemistry and astronomy.

During the course of the 19th century, scientists had learnt that light sources from flames to stars are comprised of lines of colour representing the light emitted by particular chemical species present in the burning source. Dark lines appear at the same wavelengths when the same chemical species absorb light. These sequences of lines are unique to each element and compound and thus provide a "fingerprint" in their analysis.

A solar eclipse in 1868 provided an opportunity to record superior solar spectra. Analysing them, the astronomer Norman Lockyer and others noticed a new line in the otherwise familiar pattern. Lockyer concluded that it could only be explained by a new chemical element. His colleague, Edward Frankland, proposed the name helium, from the Greek for the sun, helios.

This was no ordinary discovery. If it really was a new element, then it was the only one to have been detected at remote distances by the new technique of spectroscopy. But without any "helium" available on Earth, it remained impossible to confirm that this was, indeed, what the anomalous spectral signal represented.

Confirmation had to wait nearly 30 years. In 1894, William Ramsay had discovered the inert gas element, argon. Although present as 1 per cent of air, it had remained undetected right under everyone's noses because of its inertness. Ramsay found argon by accident as a gaseous residue left over during the course of experiments to take up the air's nitrogen.

In February 1895, Ramsay received samples of a mineral that had been discovered to give off an inert gas. Thinking that it might be the new gas, argon, he and his colleague William Crookes performed a spectral analysis. They found that it was not argon but a new gas whose spectrum was in exact correspondence with Lockyer's solar spectral lines.

The quickfire discovery of two new inert gases encouraged speculation that there would be other gas elements in this same group of the Periodic Table. Ramsay went on to discover neon, krypton and xenon. For his part in the discovery of five chemical elements, he was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1904.

Although helium is the only naturally-occurring element to have been discovered at a distance, the spectroscopic techniques by which it was discovered have led to a lasting union of chemistry and astronomy. Almost everything we know of the universe beyond the Earth and Moon comes from the study of radiation. This knowledge came first by direct observation, by the naked eye and then by telescope. More recently, it has come by means of sophisticated instruments able to receive and separate radiation across a wide span of the electromagnetic spectrum, revealing the "bar code" of spectral lines that betray the presence of particular atoms and molecules.

The latest generation of space instruments, such as the Hubble space telescope and the Cosmic Background Explorer satellite, are nothing more than glorified spectroscopes. These instruments record spectra respectively in the ultraviolet and infrared regions of the spectrum. Radio telescopes perform the same function at microwave frequences.

From the first, the notion that chemical analysis could be performed on a remote object such as a star roused the public imagination. So novel was this idea, indeed, that the first priority was to establish that the family of chemical elements present in space was the same as that known on Earth.

Increasingly powerful instruments have unearthed new spectral features which have often been hard to explain. New spectral lines are still appearing faster than we can explain them. "Much as we have learnt about the chemistry of the interstellar medium, there is obviously something that is still quite elusive," says Dr Louis Allamandola, of the NASA Ames Research Center, near San Francisco.

That elusive something will not be a new element — there are no gaps remaining in the Periodic Table. With the realisation that many of the chemical elements are comparatively widespread in certain regions of space, such as in the atmosphere around stars, scientists have come to believe that there is a rich chemistry in which atoms and ions collide and form molecules.

Astronomer: Lockyer, the discoverer of helium. Chemist: Ramsay, discoverer of argon

The Second World War saw the spectroscopic detection of the first simple molecules composed of two atoms. "There was tremendous excitement when the first molecules were discovered, because we were all told that the interstellar medium was too harsh for them to form," says Allamandola. Excitement turned to astonishment when the fragile ammonia molecule was detected in 1968. It was closely followed by water, then by carbon monoxide and formaldehyde.

Today, the catalogue of molecules reported to be present in space runs to a hundred or more, and includes such familiar specimens as ethyl-alcohol and acetone. The discovery of molecular ions, such as protonated carbon monoxide and hydrogen gas molecules, in cool regions of space, showed that complex reactions could take place between ions and molecules enabling the creation of surprisingly large molecules.

In the 1970s, Harold Kroto and David Walton, chemists at the University of Sussex, teamed-up with Canadian astronomers in a series of experiments that greatly extended the catalogue of molecular possibilities in interstellar space. A molecule called cyanoacetylene — a chain of three carbon atoms terminated with a nitrogen atom at one end and a hydrogen atom at the other — had by then been detected in space.

Kroto and Walton had made the next chain in the sequence, which had two more carbon atoms, and recorded its spectrum. Using the Canadians' radio telescope, they used this information to search for it in the atmosphere around carbon stars. When they duly found this molecule with two more heavy atoms than any other yet detected, it was a sign that interstellar chemistry was even richer than had been thought. By making further chains in the sequence and recording this spectra, it was possible to use the radio telescope to search for these in space as well. Ultimately, they found molecules with nine and 11 atoms.

One small molecule whose detection in space has not yet been confirmed is the smallest amino acid, glycine. The maverick astronomer Fred Hoyle has argued that the existence in space of molecules — such as ammonia, water and formaldehyde — that play a role in terrestial biology, suggest that life may have spread to Earth from outside the solar system. Most scientists dismiss this. "Glycine will be there," says Kroto. "But it's of no significance. Hoyle's argument is nonsense. This is not produced by a biological process. It's simply the creation of a random small molecule."

■ New in paperback: Horace Freeland Judson's *The Eighth Day of Creation* (Penguin, £12) tells the story of molecular genetics and the discovery of the structure of DNA, the most compelling achievement of science in the second half of the 20th century. This is the definitive account of how biologists unveiled the mysteries of heredity.

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what IS gan?

HOW DO WE KNOW A CLASS OF 35 PUPILS CREATES PROBLEMS?

School classes are getting larger. The teachers' pay deal will make them larger still.

Does it matter? Both parents and teachers think that it does.

This week Professor Peter Mortimore examines the evidence and argues that we need more research to make the case for smaller class sizes.

The TES, in a class of its own. Out this Friday.

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Ayatollahs of the airwaves

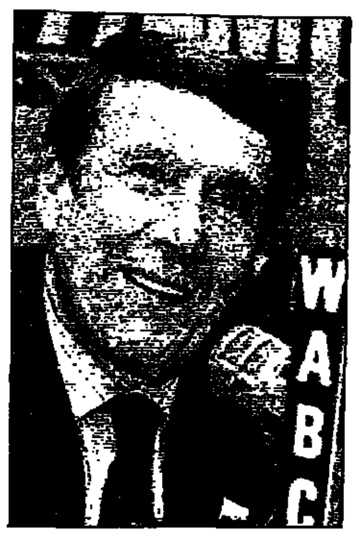
Radio stations that heap abuse on the audience are coming to Britain — but will anyone listen? **Tom Rhodes** reports

George, the self-styled atheist from Queens, has a simple question for Bob Grant. "Is vengeance the Lord's or does it belong to society, Bob? Do you agree with the death penalty?"

Grant peers down at the large microphone for less than a second and answers: "The death penalty is a fitting sentence for murderers. Thank you George and now to our next caller."

On the line is Elvis, from Manhattan, who has been incensed by the suggestion that black people are in some way responsible for all crimes committed in the United States. The heated discussion which follows is brought to an abrupt end by Grant with the words: "Stop being so defensive will you . . . Get off my line you little creep."

Welcome to talk radio and the *Bob Grant Show* on WABC, New York's premier afternoon act, which attracts more than one million listeners every day. For those who seek attacks on blacks, gays, politicians and even the elderly, this is one of the most bigoted displays available on the American airwaves. This week Britain will have its first taste of the same.



Shock jock: Bob Grant

Talk Radio UK — or TRUK, as it is known — will be broadcast for the first time tomorrow, Valentine's Day, and is designed as a hard-nosed, controversial, irreverent replica of the American model. It will use the "language of the day" to provoke radical reaction from its audience.

Somehow it is hard to envisage that the English version can ever be a match for its American counterpart. Talk Radio was established in America decades ago but it has become a dominant cultural force only in the past six to eight years, using a general disaffection with government — in particular the liberal politics of the Left — to create a whole new gallery of radio stars.

Grant and Rush Limbaugh have made WABC the most listened to radio station in the nation. Of the remaining list of hundreds, Howard Stern, Gordon Liddy and David Brudnoy are the most renowned.

The "shock jocks", or ayatollahs of the airwaves, as they are charmingly known, have become so important to the political process under the Republicans in Congress that Newt Gingrich, the new Speaker of the House, told his staff to create space for talk-show hosts who wanted to broadcast on the opening day of the new session last month.

In New York, Grant attracts the rawest audience with his relentless attacks on those both in and out office. David Dinkins, the former Mayor of New York, is known as "the men's room attendant", and the President is "Slick Willy, that sleazebag in the White House".

Grant reserves his greatest distaste, however, for the politically correct. These include those who have banned a Bugs Bunny video showing the cartoon character attacking Japanese, and half the student body at Rutgers University in New Jersey. The students had called for the resignation of their president for comments he made suggesting that black exam results were in some way related to eugenics.

"*What is science, after all, when we've got the politically correct stormtroopers out there,*" says Grant. "Let's check when we can say it, how we can say it and why we can say it, shall we?"

Grant, 45, a diminutive figure dressed in corduroys and knitted sweater, bears an uncanny resemblance to Jimmy Young. The words even trip from his lips in the dulcet manner of the Radio 2 presenter. But that is where the similarity ends.

"Bob, I want to hear one programme where you do not mention the word black," says James, of New Jersey. "What do you mean by that sanctimonious garbage," counters Grant, who again drops the caller. "I despise putrid guys like James of Jersey City. They think I create this stuff in the first place?"

Grant's show brings in a tidy $7 million (£4.6 million) in advertising revenue every year and, if he reads the commercials in person, the rates are astronomic.

Talk Radio UK will have to achieve similar commercial success in a market already burgeoning with seven established networks, countless local radio stations and a plethora of pirate broadcasters.

Stringent libel laws will make it hard for the British presenters, who include Steve Wright and Terry Christian, to emulate those across the Atlantic. In America, talk radio has no obligation to observe fact.

Behind the glass separating Grant from his producers, the sound engineer has his own theory. "I can't really see this stuff going down well in Britain," he shrugs. "You guys are just more reticent than we are."

Ginny Dougary faces the weight of evidence on her scales, and takes on a personal trainer

TONY WHITE

Ginny Dougary and her trainer Simon work-out in the park — her slimming regime will start with six weeks of fat-burning, and then a long-distance slog to size 10

Exit, Mistress Blobby

It is judgment day. I haven't stepped on the scales for a good year, and they have hit back with a vengeance. I've moved them around the bathroom floor, curled my toes up, taken a deep breath, shifted my weight from foot to foot, but there is no avoiding the gruesome truth that I appear to have turned into Michelin Woman.

Not that I was sylph-like before. My unhealthy relationship with food dates back — doesn't it always? — to adolescence. At school, my gang of friends would descend onto the local confectioners to stock up supplies: whipped creamy bon-bons, crumbly fudge, misshapen slabs of cheap chocolate and bars of Caramac, which we would gorge on in a sinful weekly ritual back in the dormitory.

Then we discovered boys. And crash diets. The coolest girl in the sixth form, the one all us juniors emulated, wore her pink crushed-velvet jeans a size too small simply to remind herself not to eat. One term, I managed to get through the best part of a week existing only on oranges. And I still didn't manage to squirm into the requisite size 10 pair of loons.

At university, I had a thinnish year followed by a fattish one when I thought it was smart to down pints of lager with the lads. During my twenties, the pendulum swung between plump and too plump until I moved to Sydney and discovered bushwalks, bodysurfing, skinny-dips at midnight, workouts at midday and, for the first time in my life, what it felt like to be confident in a swimsuit. Hallelujah.

I am of average height (5ft 7in) but, seven years on, of sadly over-average weight (12st-something, when I shoulld be 10st-something). I blame it on England and having babies. In time-honoured dieters' fashion, of course, one never blames oneself. After the birth of each of my sons, I solemnly attended Weight Watchers' meetings and visited the gym once or twice a week. I never sprang back into my pre-pregnancy Aussie body, but this regime (particularly the exercise) did appear to keep my vital stats at least vaguely under control.

The rot set in with my third "pregnancy", just over a year ago, when I took three months off work to complete a book. Like a Muriel Spark heroine who stuffs her stomach to feed her brain, I consumed tubs of Häagen-Dazs, bars of chocolate, hot buttered toast and jam — *anything* to help me get through the long haul and deliver the wretched manuscript. And then, with no post-delivery famine, it was back to the day job as a journalist. My poor old physique has still not recovered from that feasting. Worse still, I have got out of the habit of taking exercise.

> Simon has arrived, and I must say farewell to hot buttered toast

I'm sorry, Dawn French, but I am fed up with being Mistress Blobby. I don't want to be plumpcious anymore. Since I am better at *doing* things to my body than depriving it, it seems sensible to concentrate on getting fit rather than trying yet another whacky diet. My wonderful GP, the aptly-named Dr Peach, agrees. He also thinks, rather less wonderfully, that I should lose at least a couple of stone.

Thus, for the next three to four months (I cannot quite believe that I am writing this), there will be a new man in my life. His name is Simon Howland and he is a personal trainer. Simon has done wonders for my friend Dragana's thighs, and he intends to do wonders for mine. *Oh yes*. I have filled out my medical profile, memorised Simon's copy of Oprah Winfrey's personal chef's recipe book for my new low-fat way of eating (we don't call it a diet), and bought my weird-looking Nike running shoes for our early-morning jogs around the common. (Yuk.) Each session will last an hour or so, three times a week. I will be expected to do a fourth session on my own. The first four to six weeks, Simon tells me mellifluously, will be all about "fat burning" — during which the worst of the weight should drop off. Then we'll settle in for the long-distance slog of whittling away the rest, while working on getting me to go in and out in the right places.

A personal trainer! In my own home! Will I turn into Jane Fonda or Tina Brown or, at the very least, a pulchritudinous version of myself? How long will it take to develop those nice dippy bits along the sides of my thighs otherwise known as muscles? How long before I can fit back into my jeans? And the gorgeous Fifties cocktail dress which has been languishing in my "thin" wardrobe for so many years? How long will it take before Simon decks me with his weights? (He has already informed me, in the nicest possible way, that my own dinky blue pair are, frankly, *path*-etic). More to the point, how long will it take before I deck him? Watch this space.

Is Auntie going loopy?

THE BBC's two-year exercise in self-criticism has, if weekend leaks be correct, concluded that Britain finds it "conservative and highbrow and too much part of the Establishment". Also that it is alienating youth, black people and Asians, is unforgivably "middle-aged in tone and subject matter", and biased towards London.

None of which is a surprise. It is what the BBC wanted to be told. There are plenty of statements dating from before the review which show that the BBC would have been terribly disappointed if the populace had begged it to stay as sweet as it is. One is irresistibly reminded of those boyfriends of one's Adrian Mole years, the kind who keep saying: "Go on, tell me what's wrong with me — it's my spots, isn't it? And my hair — and my personality — go on, admit it!".

I am sure this was not the exact wording of the Birt-Forgan-Yentob questionnaires; but I have a sneaking suspicion that if anyone had said: "The BBC? Terrific, especially Radio 4! The great thing about middle-class voices is that you can understand what they're saying — and we in Huddersfield love to know what's going on in London, it's our capital city," they would have got a what our old babysitter used to call a Killing Look, and found a number of Armani-suited backs turned on them with a petulant swish.

For two years now, the easiest way to gain favour in the BBC has been to confess to past sins of bourgeois élitism. In particular, the worry about regional correctness has led to loopy diversions like the practice of flying a gang of excitable London intellectuals up to Manchester to record the television version of the *Moral Maze*, and then flying them back again; all because the religious department has been moved to Manchester to make it, er, less Londonish. Mind you, it has also led to breakthroughs like the real widening of regional coverage by Radio 5 Live, so "regionality" is not all nonsense.

But there is something uneasy, at times, about the prevailing sense that it is in some way wicked to live in London or Kent, and that a vox-pop from Bradford is inevitably wiser than one from Ealing.

Unless, of course, the individual from Ealing is teenage, black, Asian, gay, or out of work (manual work, please). There is nothing wrong with broadening BBC sympathies, and certainly no call for complacency; but there is a sense, discernible on radio and TV, of terrible triumph as the corporation captures each minority beast for exhibition. It can make broadcasting feel like an earnest zoo, when it ought to feel like a good party.

> The BBC was dying to be told it was middle-class and London-centred

LIBBY PURVES

It also leads to entertaining incidents where, for the sake of regional correctness, a producer moves a programme far from London only to discover that the farther you get, the more likely you are to encounter in your studio a group of cheerily unrepentant sexists, little-Englanders, and people with nobbut honest contempt for yoof, reggae music, single parents and southern lesbians.

There will, they say, be new strategies to attract "ethnic minorities, young people, and those outside the Home Counties". Now I love the BBC very much, and have felt part of it for two decades: it is with affection that I beg it to tread with care. Too much of modern life is already designed by those who "target" customers, studying them at a superficial level and giving them what the computer printout says they want. It is a denial of individual taste, of quirkiness, of the wonderful way that ideas and facts can leap from mind to mind and be exchanged between kings and beggars, old and young, the simple and the brilliant.

Targeting equals patronising: it impoverishes discourse. "Ethnic, are you, laddie? Fine, here's some rap music and a play about some other people with your sort of ancestor. Eighteen, are you? We know your sort — attention span of 30 seconds, ha ha — so here's some zappy stuff for you. Never mind that you've just taken your A levels and you're off to university, the first in your family, part of the biggest explosion in higher education the country has ever seen — you're still a yoof! You want something with green hair and no grammar, eh?

"Now, regionality — you people in Penzance and Belfast and Spalding certainly don't want to hear about London, so here's a long item from Clitheroe, you'll like that! It's regional, see, like you. What was that? London is the capital, you're proud of it, you want to know what's going on there? Wash your mouth out!"

Programme makers are criticised for making shows without knowing what the audience wants. Sounds bad; but look at it another way. The greatest programmes have sprung up because a group of creative people longed to make them: enthused, and laughed, and schemed and believed.

Despite its many absurdities the old, collegiate BBC threw up wonderful things, from *Steptoe* to *Panorama*. It opened the eyes of millions to worlds they never expected to see: worlds which were not part of their lives and which they would never have mentioned to market researchers *because they didn't know about them.*

LIKE real education, real broadcasting stretches out a hand to everyone, offering the best. David Attenborough, who as Controller gave us both *Civilisation* and TV snooker, has opened many windows and still does. Yet as he observed to me at the launching of his current series, there will be no more Attenboroughs. "If some young chap came along saying 'tell you what, give me 50 minutes prime-time to make a show about leaves', they'd tell him to take a rest."

Targeting and marketing are no match for faith and creativity: people are not to be pigeonholed. But I am sure the BBC knows that, because I still trust it. Just.

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205

Matthew Parris

■ Since no one can say what the 'right' salary is for an executive, who can say what is 'wrong'?

Did Mrs Thatcher understand Thatcherism? The Chauncey Gardiner of her own political salon, her combination of banality and self-belief encouraged those around her to construct her random utterances into a doctrine, which they persuaded her she had thought of herself. But it was her native common sense that carried her. Thatcherism as a philosophy is a hopeless tangle.

Nothing better illustrates this than the current row over top directors' salaries. BT's Sir Iain Vallance, in his evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Employment, barged straight into the bramble-patch when he tried to defend his pay on grounds of distributive justice. His critics, MPs, spoke of injustice.

How little those who operate the *market* and those who oversee it politically understand the moral basis of capitalism! Disagreement over whether a particularly wage is "just", presumes agreement on a far more important question: that in a market economy a wage is capable of being *un*just.

Is it? Do such terms have any meaning in market economics? Or have they any meaning in any system of morality which can be operated alongside the market, as Christians, Jews and Muslims all hope their faith can? These religions propose a rather similar scale against which we must test prices and incomes for "justice": the test of "need" or "deserving". All three (in common with Marxism) seem to think there is some way this can be determined.

But even if it could, these religions can never be bent to the service of market economics, because the market regularly produces outcomes which offend any conceivable judgment of need or deserving. Central to the operation of a market — in either goods or labour — is the idea of profiting from scarcity. This is the very engine of a market system, for if scarcity is prevented from lifting price or profit — not "reasonably" but *proportionate to the scarcity* — then the system fails.

Profiting from scarcity can never be reconciled with Christianity, and that — *pace* Mrs Thatcher's speech at St Lawrence Jewry 17 years ago, or Michael Portillo's recent address in Liverpool Cathedral — is that. Just read the Gospels. Even without bringing God into it, Simon Jenkins, on this page, demolished claims that the salaries in the news reflected any likely measure of need or deserving.

But Jenkins went on, as others have, to challenge the *market* justification for such salaries. Commentators argue that determinations of executive pay have somehow been "wrong" in market terms, or have resulted from quirks in the system which are themselves anti-market. They have argued either that people like Vallance could be hired more cheaply; or that his performance is unlikely to respond to changes in an already huge salary; or that the cost of the bad publicity exceeds any benefits purchased by the salary increase.

In this they may be right. Where they are wrong, however, is in their undeclared major premise: that the failure of the market to produce the optimum outcome in any individual instance calls for legislation, or interference from outside the market, or indeed public comment at all.

Market economics does not claim to cause the price of goods or labour to move in a way which always or even usually maximises efficiency, prosperity or the public good. It only claims to be better than any other system at doing so. Other systems include systematised intervention by politicians, and haphazard interference by media comment.

> Yes, these salaries may be undeserved: it's just that there isn't a better system

If we do spot rigidities or monopolies operating within the market, then our task as free-marketeers is to press for their removal, not for *ad hoc* remedies aimed at individual instances.

If unhappiness about Mr Vallance's salary were really rooted in our dismay at his company's part-monopoly, then there would be more media interest in how that might be removed. But it is really rooted in dismay that anyone can profit so much from providing something people need. The argument about BT's special status simply provides us with an unusual opportunity to sink our teeth into a corporate buttock: Vallance's. Yet beyond his lie buttocks without number, some far fatter (do banks, supermarkets, insurance companies, not provide a public service?), but we seize on BT because it has not quite yet escaped into the free market. When it does, do we really think its directors will be paid less?

It is not necessary to believe that Mr Vallance "deserves" his salary, or needs it, or would quit without it, or is working harder because of it, or even that the board of BT is well-placed to decide it, in order to believe that we — MPs or journalists — are not well-placed to decide it either.

The system we have, a capitalist economy, offends mightily against religious principles, fails lamentably to produce optimum results even in terms of its own principles, and remains the best engine for our prosperity that man can devise. Envy is envy, and we should just admit it.

Today's students are asked to 'empathise' with characters, but their judgments can be very harsh

Is it time to revise my literary views?

William Rees-Mogg

Generations pass, but Eng. Lit. exams go on forever. When I took the old School Certificate in 1943, we had to cover two texts, one a Shakespeare play (that year it was *Romeo and Juliet*) and the other one of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. This year, our youngest daughter, Annunziata, is taking her GCSE (O levels have come and gone in the meantime). She will be examined on three set texts — Shakespeare's *Othello*, Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* and Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*.

The system remains substantially the same as it was 50 years ago, except that Chaucer has dropped out, and a 20th-century author has been added. It may be none the better for that. Even in 1943, the examination system seemed a distraction from actually reading English Literature, or even a discouragement. Normally one reads for enjoyment, or to widen the understanding. Shakespeare analysed in the classroom is not likely to be particularly enjoyable: even now I lack the ability to visualise, which would make reading a play a little more like seeing it performed.

Annunziata has enjoyed reading *Northanger Abbey* and has been introduced to Jane Austen, which could be a lifelong benefit. She has been to see *Othello*, perhaps not brilliantly performed, and did not greatly enjoy it; she enjoys the play still less on the page. She also has a problem with *Under Milk Wood*. She does not think it is very good, and rather resents having to give close attention to a text which she finds boring, sentimental and superficial.

I tend to agree with this view of Dylan Thomas, who seems to be one of those minor poets with an interesting life, a good ear but not too much to say; they belong more to the history of taste than to literature. Thomas Chatterton was a similar figure. An intelligent schoolgirl could reasonably find *Under Milk Wood* an irritating object of study, particularly at the revision stage.

It is her objection to *Othello* which is more disconcerting. Her difficulty is that she finds it impossible to sympathise deeply with any of the characters, with the possible exception of Emilia; even Emilia she considers to have been pretty thick not to have seen what her husband, Iago, was really like. Desdemona she regards as a vapid, wet young woman who is invented solely for the purpose of being murdered; Iago is obviously extremely unpleasant; Cassio is another lay figure, and one who has extremely bad luck; the Moor himself she sees as a very stupid man, if mildly interesting as an example of trans-ethnic jealousy, a sort of O.J. Othello. But with none of these characters can she establish any personal sympathy, and she does not therefore greatly mind what happens to them; she does not cry when Desdemona is killed, any more than she would if a dummy in a fashion shop had her head removed in order to be fitted with a new costume.

I'm so accustomed to the idea that *Othello* is one of the greatest of tragedies, that I was quite startled by this critique. Two questions seemed to arise from it. The first is whether one does ever really sympathise with Shakespeare's character; the second is whether such sympathy is a necessary part of the appreciation of literature.

The answer to the first question is disturbing. The major characters in the tragedies are not very sympathetic, though some of the minor characters are. Just as Emilia is the most sympathetic character in *Othello*, so is Horatio in *Hamlet*, the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* and perhaps Banquo in *Macbeth*. Hamlet himself is a very real person, but not a likeable one, the personification of the irritating traits of indecision, self-absorption and intellectual conceit. We have all met far too many Hamlets in our lives. One's heart does not warm to the major characters in the history plays either. Most of the kings were disagreeable: John was a murderous scoundrel, Richard II a sort of Hamlet in the making, and even more self-pitying; Henry V a young military hero of a relatively superficial kind; Richard III was unspeakable. They are very interesting as character studies but they are not at all sympathetic as people. Nor would one choose Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, Brutus or Coriolanus as close personal friends.

It is in the comedies, if anywhere, that one finds sympathetic Shakespearean characters, though there are not all that many of them even there. One can just about sympathise with Falstaff, but he has to be on his deathbed for the sympathy to have any real warmth to it. To my taste, *Much Ado About Nothing* is the most sympathetic of Shakespeare's plays: if sympathy is the test then Beatrice and Benedick are the most touching of Shakespeare's couples. Like Annunziata on *Othello*, I have never cared much personally for Romeo or Juliet. Romeo was a dangerous young hooligan and Juliet a star-struck girl. Yet it is a most moving drama.

No doubt GCSE is calculated to bring out whatever is most negative about the authors who are studied. Perhaps some other authors did fall in love with their characters in a way that Shakespeare did not: in Shakespeare there is so great an understanding that it almost inhibits personal sentiment. Henry Fielding loved Tom Jones. Correspondingly, we sympathise with Tom Jones, as we do with Anthony Trollope's Septimus Harding. I do not feel much sympathy for any of Dickens's characters which is why I seldom read him.

The idea that this sort of sympathy is essential to the appreciation of literature may itself be a modern one. Empathy is a common word in modern teaching theory — Annunziata herself was recently set an essay on the Night of the Long Knives, to be written from Adolf Hitler's point of view. "Wow am I glad that's all over and Roehm is dead! We gave him the good old bullet in the head. Rat-a-tat-tat. My buddy Herman Goering did a grand job. You knew he had stiffed plenty of guys before; he did it in real style." I was not sure that it was wise to invite 15-year-old girls to enter into the mind of the most evil tyrant of the 20th century, but it does not seem to have done her any harm. In my day no one ever asked me to imagine what it would have been like to be the Emperor Caligula or even Robespierre. "Gee, I get a kick out of sending aristos to the guillotine."

The concept of sympathy as the criterion of literature must come from the broad shift from the objective to the subjective which is part of the culture of the 20th century. My father was at Charterhouse 40 years before me. The English Literature paper he may have taken in 1906, when he was 16, is in front of me. "Question One: Give the context and author of 14 of the following extracts. Question Two: Write out *one* of the poems whose opening lines are given below. Question Three: Point out and illustrate from other poems of the same authors the literary characteristics and moods of thought contained in the following passages. Question Four: Give some account of the following poems: *Kubla Khan*, *Ruth*, *Ode to the West Wind*, *Yarrow Revisited*, *To a Skylark*, *Elegy on Thirza*, *The Maid of Neidpath*, *Lucy Gray*. Question Five: Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the best and happiest minds. Discuss this statement.

Eng. Lit is not like that nowadays. Anyway, who was the Maid of Neidpath?

Courting the business vote

The financial world is losing faith in the Tories, writes **Peter Riddell**, although chairmen too are divided over Europe

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

The Conservatives are rapidly ceasing to be the natural party of big business and the City. The latest convulsions in the Cabinet over a single European currency have dramatised this shift. This does not mean that capital is about to embrace labour, with either a small or a capital "L". But many senior industrialists and bankers have lost so much faith in the Government's ability to chart and follow a consistent European strategy that they regard Tony Blair as someone with whom they can do business. Pearson may not be the only big company to make a donation to Labour.

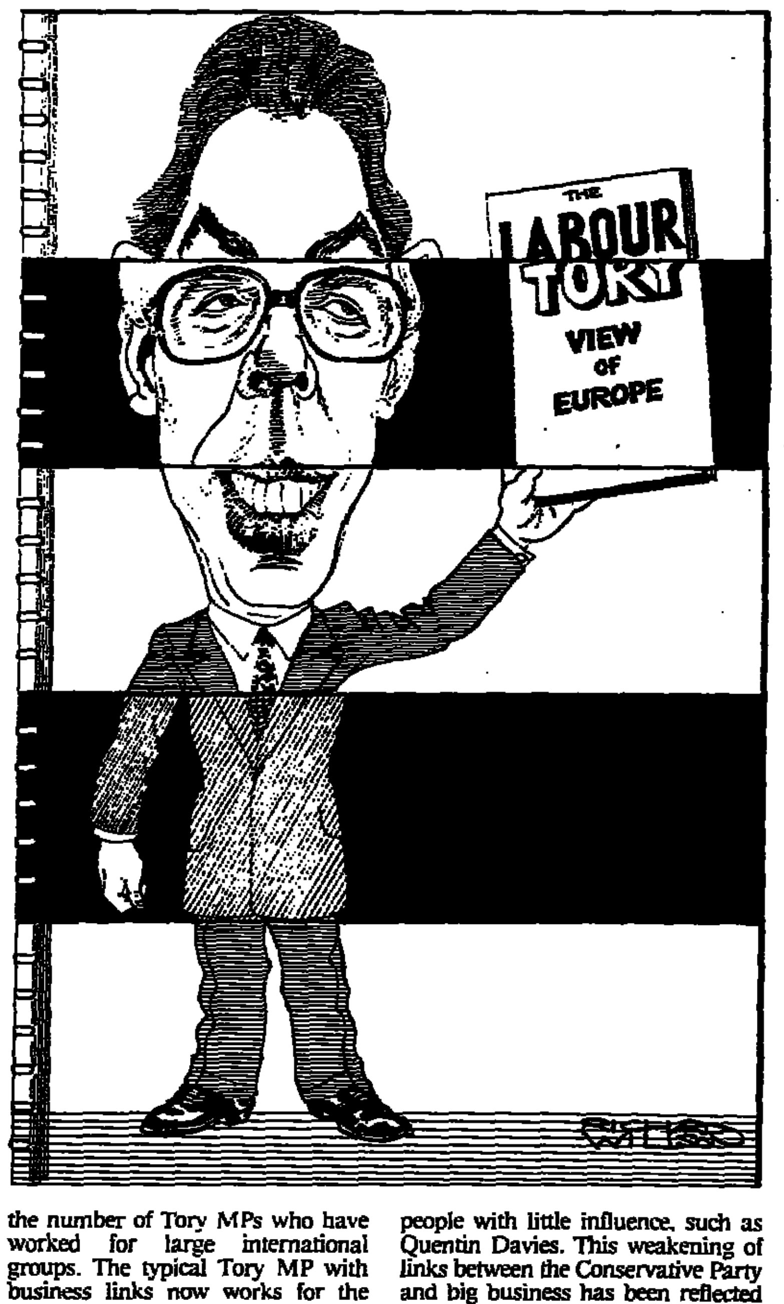
Monetary union has become the symbol of this disenchantment with the Tories. The paradox is that the two main parties have similar policies: the Maastricht treaty guidelines for convergence of inflation, Budget deficits and interest rates, plus convergence in the real economy and labour markets. Kenneth Clarke's language last Thursday may have been a world away from that of Jonathan Aitken or Michael Portillo, but it was virtually identical to that of Mr Blair. Both believe the decision should be left open for the moment, and should be judged on economic grounds. Neither believes that there are insuperable constitutional objections.

The Cabinet is now deeply split over anything beyond a largely empty pledge not to enter a single currency in 1996-97, when Germany and France may not anyway be ready to launch a monetary union. It is hard to see any Tory Prime Minister being able to persuade his party to back British participation. Even though a decision will probably not have to be taken for at least four or five years, that uncertainty perversely ensures that the argument will not go away.

Such conflicts of economic and political interest have recurred throughout the Tory party's history. Peel was rejected in the mid-1840s by the landed squires when he sought to repeal the Corn Laws after a free-trade campaign backed by manufacturing industry. The Balfour Government was fatally weakened in 1903 by a battle between tariff reformers and free-traders. The former took control of the party. The influx of businessmen after the First World War prompted Baldwin's famous remark about "hard-faced men who had done well out of the war".

It was still common then for leading businessmen to sit as MPs. In the inter-war era, nearly a fifth of the chairmen of leading companies had been members of the Commons at some stage of their careers. By the 1960s and 1970s, the figure was only 4 per cent, and now it is negligible. Usually the only chairmen of big companies with experience of the Commons are retired former ministers.

This reflects the increased specialisation of both business and politics. Those who want to reach the top in any big company, or large professional firm, have to give up the idea of running for the Commons. The days when a big City bank or broker indulged one or two people to develop their parliamentary ambitions are largely gone. On the other side, politics has become more demanding. A lengthy apprenticeship of local involvement is often required before being picked for a safe seat, and this is incompatible with a successful career in a large company.


THE LABOUR TORY VIEW OF EUROPE

The Industry and Parliament Trust estimates that the number of newly elected MPs of all parties with business experience has declined to just over a fifth in recent elections, compared with a third in 1979. Moreover, there has been a decline in the number of Tory MPs who have worked for large international groups. The typical Tory MP with business links now works for the family firm or has built up his own company. By contrast with the growing influence of entrepreneurial small businessmen, the voice of the City is less heard. Apart from the now veteran Sir Peter Tapsell, an independent-minded stockbroker, Tories with a City background tend to be people with little influence, such as Quentin Davies. This weakening of links between the Conservative Party and big business has been reflected on the financial side. As Michael Pinto-Duschinsky has documented, donations by publicly quoted companies have been flat, and have fallen in real terms. This has made the party more dependent on contributions from wealthy individuals and those who have built up their own private companies, like the Bournemouth builder who has just left the Tories £1 million in his will.

Consequently, the business views expressed in the Commons and by those with access to senior Conservatives are increasingly those of small business and self-made entrepreneurs, rather than those of multinational companies. The former are likely to be resentful of over-regulation by Brussels and not to have pan-European interests themselves. The shift by the Tory parliamentary party in a Euro-sceptic direction reflects the change in its composition. Thatcher's children have tilted the party's views on Europe in her direction, although too late for her personally.

Industry and the City, are, of course, divided about Britain's relations with Europe, and about a single currency, as Lord Hanson and the other 16 prominent business signatories of a letter to *The Times* last Thursday pointed out. Most are entrepreneurs rather than managers, and in some cases their companies do not have big interests in the rest of Europe.

By contrast, the chairmen of many multinational companies, such as BAT Industries, Unilever and BT, and their counterparts in the big City institutions, are more associated with the pro-European side. ACE, the new pro-European group, has a list of distinguished bank chairmen, former ambassadors and even former Governors of the Bank of England among its backers. However, some City people more directly involved in financial trading, such as Daniel Hodson of LIFFE, the futures market, who signed last Thursday's letter, are more dubious about a single currency.

Many in the City and big business establishment, including some at the top of the CBI, are impatient with the Government's divisions over Europe. They naturally have differences with Labour over the social chapter — though some multinationals are even relaxed about this — and there are doubts about Labour's tax plans. But business supporters of a single currency are increasingly looking to a Blair Government rather than to the Conservatives.

THE TIMES DIARY

Charm offensive

THE HISTORIAN who led the revisionist attacks on Winston Churchill has come back for another stab. In a new book, John Charmley, from the University of East Anglia, blames the decline in Britain's status as a world power on Churchill's wartime leadership.

Charmley has never been generous in his praise of Churchill. His last book, *Churchill: the End of Glory*, an onslaught which suggested that Churchill should have negotiated an earlier end to the war, was greeted by a public outcry two years ago. The latest work, *Churchill's Grand Alliance*, is likely to elicit a similar response — not least because its launch date virtually coincides with the 50th anniversary of VE-Day.

Charmley says Churchill was myopic and backward-looking, a man who forged a disastrous relationship with America: "He was a crusty old Tory imperialist, yet he sold out Britain's imperial interests by forging the special relationship with America, because by 1945 America was determined to get rid of the British Empire."

Churchill, he says, had a fantasy about the Anglo-American union, rooted in family history: his mother was American and his father English. Charmley calls the so-called "special relationship" a benign legend. "It has been used to make the British feel better about the way in which successive governments have subordinated British interests to American desires." But the author looks forward to the rumpus on publication. "It will be the astringent after all the sugary stuff that we will get around then."

● *Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, has a secret for fighting High Court battles. He guzzles a tube of Smarties and two bottles of Evian water before setting about his opponents.*

New and old

THE QUEEN is to open a new Cambridge college building for the first time. She will throw open the doors of the New Building at Emmanuel College, designed by Sir Michael and Lady Hopkins, in April.

The Royal Family has followed the construction closely. The Princess of Wales laid the foundation stone, and her husband is a big fan of the designers. "Stones for this building come from the quarry that was used for the college's Wren chapel," says the Master, Lord St John of Fawsley. "The building will do for the 1990s what Wren did for the 1660s."

Heckles rise

INTERVIEWEES seem to have been encouraged by John Birt's recent speech in which he suggested that some BBC interrogators are too ferocious. Jack Straw fought back by taunting John Humphrys when the latter tried to interject during a discussion of regional assemblies on yesterday's *On the Record*.

"Let me finish," snapped Straw. "Otherwise I shall have to write to Mr Birt." Humphrys laughed, but protested: "A low blow, if I may so."

"A very low blow, but I was only three words into the answer before you . . ."

Humphrys cut in quickly: "I was trying to get you to clarify."

Straw was allowed to continue for just a few moments more before both started gabbling at once and the conversation descended into unintelligibility. A noisy draw.

Loot and who?

FOR police in Hampton Wick, West London, catching an inept burglar was easy. Finding the victim and the scene of the crime is proving a little trickier.

Bobbies nicked the hapless individual in the course of breaking and entering. The loot from another break-in, mostly jewellery and watches, was stuffed down his trousers, and he confessed all.

Or nearly all: he couldn't remember where the swag had come from. This became a problem when nobody reported the items missing. The culprit was bundled out to a panda car and taken on a snail's-pace tour of the neighbourhood. Still no result. "He remembers roughly where he stole it from, but he can't find the house itself," explains the investigating officer. "He's not from the area you see."

Silver spoons

WHAT promise to be the most mischievous memoirs since Alan Clark's are to be published next spring. Lord McAlpine, a former Treasurer of the Conservative Party, has agreed a deal for his autobiography with the publisher Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

McAlpine: concrete cradle

McAlpine refuses to be drawn on the book's probable contents, but one or two ministers such as John Gummer (with whom he has had several disagreeable encounters) are certain to come in for a pasting. Another probable target is the former Brussels minister Tristan Garrel-Jones.

Lord McAlpine insists that the book will not be concerned with politics alone. "I was born in the Dorchester Hotel and my bottle was brought as part of the room service. Eisenhower was in the room next door. I was born there because it was one of the few concrete buildings in London, because my family owned it and because it was 1942 — the middle of the war."

Speak up

AN ATTEMPT is to be made this week to trace the origins of Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America" to a small office in Oxford University. Frank Luntz, a precocious 32-year-old American pollster and a chief architect of the Republican Speaker's revolution, is to centre his quest on the offices of the student magazine *Isis*.

In the course of a visit to the university, he is hoping to dig out the issues of the magazine to which he contributed while a Touron scholar in the 1980s. In particular he wants to find his interview with a visiting speaker from across the Atlantic — one Newt Gingrich.

"He interviewed him over breakfast at the Randolph Hotel, and was totally dazzled," says one close to Luntz. "In light of the two men's spectacularly successful present-day alliance, Luntz understandably wants to see the ensuing article because he cannot remember a word of what he wrote."

P·H·S

FIRE FROM THE SKY

A gift to ease Dresden's painful memories

Today the Duke of Kent will give the citizens of Dresden "a gift from the British people", half a century after the city was razed by one of the greatest firestorms in history. The money, raised from private contributors and the Treasury, will be used to set a new orb and cross aloft the Frauenkirche, the magnificent baroque church where Bach played the organ. For a city of Dresden's cultural and intellectual eminence, there could be no more fitting gesture. Some Germans may interpret the present as a discreet apology. All can agree that it is a sincere act of reconciliation.

Fifty years on, the bombing of Dresden still haunts the conscience of the West. On February 13, 1945, the RAF dropped 2,690 tonnes of bombs from more than 700 planes upon the city. The fires could be seen for 100 miles and burnt for seven days. About 35,000 people were killed in a matter of hours. Though a complete success in its own terms, the operation inspired immediate anxieties in the upper reaches of the British establishment. Five weeks later, Churchill remarked in a memorandum that "Dresden remains a serious query against the conduct of allied bombing". This sense of nagging guilt has never faded.

The efficiency of the "area bombing" carried out over civilian areas of Germany during the Second World War remains a matter of dispute. For all his qualms about Dresden, Churchill was sure that the creation of Bomber Command was a "turning point in our struggle for air supremacy... without which we would not have won the war". Albert Speer considered the Anglo-American bombing campaign "the greatest lost battle on the German side". It was certainly a grievous campaign, costing Germany 600,000 civilian lives.

Whether the campaign should have lasted so long, and been conducted with such ferocity, is less obvious. In the official history of the air offensive against Germany, Sir Charles Webster and Noble Frankland are critical of the strategy adopted by Sir Arthur Harris, the head of Bomber Command, arguing that he should have focused on German oil installations in the later stages of the war. It has also been claimed that the bombing of civilian areas did more to satisfy the British desire for retribution after the Blitz than to subvert the German war effort.

Such verities may not have been so clear at the time, however. Those willing to defend Harris point out that German defeat was by no means certain when Dresden was bombed. Dismayed by the bloodiness of the Battle of the Bulge, the Allies had yet to cross the Rhine; U-boats still swarmed through British waters; V-weapons were still operative. Churchill was also under immense pressure to divert attention from the eastern front where battle continued to rage. In retrospect, the flattening of the Saxon city seems a disproportionate response to the remaining German threat. But such fine judgments are less easy to make in battle — especially when that battle is being fought against a foe as deadly as Hitler.

If there is a lesson to be drawn from this shattering moment, it is a simple one: that war forces horror, suffering and indecency upon men. Precisely because the Second World War was a just conflict, the bombing of Dresden has always been a barbarous embarrassment to the British. The reputation of Harris, in particular, has suffered as a consequence. But it is clear that the systematic bombing of German civilians was repeatedly approved by Churchill, Eden and other members of the war Cabinet. It also made bitter sense to a population battered by the Luftwaffe. Fifty years later, it is possible to look with different eyes upon this painful event. It is right that this change of perspective should be marked with a gift between peoples.

NOT A RESIGNING MATTER

Britain's immigration policy is not threatened by Europe

Charles Wardle's resignation as junior trade minister is as mystifying as it is damaging. A former Home Office minister responsible for immigration, he claims that Britain will be powerless to prevent thousands of illegal entrants because it has agreed to a "Europe without frontiers" under the 1985 Single European Act. He believes that the opt-out protocol obtained by Margaret Thatcher will soon be undermined by a successful challenge in the European Court.

The mystery is how a man who had responsibility for this field could be so misguided. For one of the true common European political imperatives is a desire to keep at bay immigrants from its boundaries. The damage to the Government of a resignation that muddies the waters is patent from the icy tone of John Major's dismissive letter.

As the Prime Minister pointed out, the pretext for Mr Wardle's resignation is wholly bogus. There is no quarrel with Britain's European partners. The protocol, negotiated in 1985 and appended to the Single European Act, is clear: "Nothing in these provisions shall affect the right of Member States to take such measures as they consider necessary for the purpose of controlling immigration from third countries, and to combat terrorism, crime, the traffic in drugs and illicit trading in works of art and antiques." This right was expressly reaffirmed in the Maastricht treaty. Britain has not joined the Schengen agreement that aims to abolish internal border controls on the Continent; together with Ireland, it insists that its island status gives it security advantages that are not to be thrown away. Some Brussels federalists may regret this; no one seriously disputes it. Nor would any court judgment be likely to rule against it.

Mr Wardle is also wrong in implying that immigration is yet another area where Britain is being forced to cede sovereignty to the Brussels bureaucracy. On the contrary, it is one of the areas expressly excluded under Maastricht from Commission competence. Instead, interior ministers from the 15 meet regularly and informally to co-ordinate policy on immigration, crime, drugs and terrorism in the framework of inter-governmental co-operation. And with immigration an issue far more sensitive in Germany or France, there is no pressure whatsoever to liberalise the rules. Nor is there any such move in Cabinet: as Home Secretary Michael Howard has zealously upheld border and immigration controls.

It looks as though Mr Wardle, a controversial minister who was unpopular with his former department, was casting about for a European issue on which to take a stand to give his resignation a spurious air of principle. In the present inflamed European debate, there are indeed principles where resignation could be justified: Lord Tebbit highlighted at the weekend a lacuna in EU democracy, rightly pointing out that on the transport of live animals, Britain has lost the ability to legislate according to the wishes of the electorate. Immigration, emotive though it is, is not one such yardstick of creeping federalism.

As Mr Major said, immigration may be raised at next year's inter-governmental conference. But anyone who has watched the debate across the Channel should know that if there is one area on which the 15 are resolved, it is a determination that Europe must not be flooded with migrants from the East or South. Mr Wardle has ignored what his former office should have taught him, and has concentrated on an issue surrounded by populist emotion. It is a bad judgment and bad politics. The European debate needs instead proper focus on what are the real issues that must be faced in 1996.

HOSPITAL SAFETY

Common sense on security is better than panic measures

Few parents will have failed to be moved by the terrible distress of Michael and Christine Owens when their newborn baby, Lydia, was kidnapped from Glan Clwyd Hospital. And the public has shared too in their relief and happiness at Lydia's safe return. This emotional identification with the Owens is perfectly right and proper: it is part of the nation's common humanity that it should feel personally involved when any mother is robbed of her baby. But there are dangers in allowing the emotions aroused by this crime to cloud what should be a rational debate about security in hospitals. The case of baby Lydia, like that of Abbie Humphries before her, touches on deep anxieties.

Vague fears of losing their babies are so common among newly delivered mothers as to be a normal part of the experience of childbirth. It is tempting to conclude, in the sympathetic heat of the moment, that every possible technical measure should be introduced to guarantee that no parent would ever again be subjected to this agony. There is already at least one hospital, Hartlepool General, spending 1 per cent of its total budget — £250,000 — on security.

But the theft of babies from maternity hospitals is one of the rarest crimes in Britain. Out of 800,000 births last year — around 98 per cent of which took place in hospital — only three babies were stolen (all of whom, thankfully, were returned to their parents unharmed). Certainly that is three cases too many but the question that must be asked is whether any security system could eliminate every risk — especially as these crimes seem almost always to be carefully planned and meticulously researched.

Even more important is what might be lost in the rush for hermetic security on maternity wards. The birth of a baby should be both a joyous and a deeply personal event, to be shared with families and friends in as much warmth and intimacy as possible. A visit to hospital usually provides the first meeting between elder siblings and the new baby brother or sister. Medical technology, hygiene regulations and administrative rules already tend to create an inhospitable atmosphere. Introducing military-type surveillance could only add a further layer of intimidating alienation to this environment.

Before ever larger proportions of NHS funding are devoted to the installation of electronic equipment more suited to a prison than a hospital, it is important to recall that the emotional well-being of patients is often crucial to their recovery. Commonsense vigilance and staff training could well raise hospital security without casting patients further into frightening social isolation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

More help sought for war widows

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter

Sir, This year we shall be commemorating the 50th anniversaries of the victorious ending of the wars in Europe and the Far East. This makes it appropriate that action should be taken to help those who suffered the devastating loss of a husband killed in action.

To help war widows, now mainly of mature years, by making generous increases in their pensions, would be the most appropriate recognition of the sacrifice of their lives by many, far too many, members of all Services.

When I was responsible as Minister of Pensions and National Insurance for war pensions in the late 1950s and early 1960s I always attempted to ensure that war widows and war disabled should be given priority in our system of pensions.

Now, 50 years from the ending of the Second World War, seems to be a particularly appropriate time to seek to comfort those who suffered the loss of a husband and the end of their married life. Their numbers are, with the passage of time, diminishing, so the cost of a real improvement in their pensions will also diminish — unlike other improvements in other benefits.

An announcement of a generous increase in the awards to those who lost a husband in the war would seem to be the best way to commemorate the victory which their sacrifices helped us to achieve.

I am your obedient servant,
BOYD-CARPENTER,
House of Lords.
February 8.

Lawson rebuttal

From Lord Lawson of Blaby

Sir, In my memoirs, *The View from No. 11*, I devoted three chapters to the subject of privatisation, telling the story and making the case.

I concluded by addressing, and answering, the main criticisms that had been levelled against the Thatcher Government's privatisation programme, during the course of which I wrote: "Probably the most serious criticism is that the Government had concentrated too much on ownership and not enough on competition." I then proceeded to rebut that charge (page 239, for those who may be interested in the argument).

It is therefore a bit rich of Mr Simon Jenkins, in his uncharacteristically muddle-headed and error-strewn article of February 8, "The great utility scandal", to allege that "In his memoirs, Lord Lawson acknowledged that the Cabinet had concentrated 'too much on ownership and not enough on competition'". I manifestly did nothing of the sort — nor was that the case.

Yours etc,
LAWSON,
House of Lords.
February 10.

Future of monarchy

From Mr Will Hutton

Sir, Dr Jonathan Clark, in his review of my recently published book, *The State We're In* (Agenda, February 8), asserts that I argue the case for the replacement of the monarchy by a republic. I do not. What I actually write is:

> Britain needs what might be called a republican attitude to its culture and institutions. To argue for a republican approach is not the same as calling for abolition of the monarchy, although implanting a republican tradition and institutional structure will mean stripping away prerogative powers and the hereditary principle, which are both aspects of the continuing royal influence on the constitution ... Too many generations of Britons have fought and died for King and Country for this unifying symbol to be thrown aside lightly. But the placing of the monarchy in a constitutional role within a wider settlement, in which the principles of governance were articulated and agreed, would do more to legitimate the institution than a thousand speeches, well-intentioned princely gestures or sermons from the self-appointed guardians of the House of Windsor.

It is a shame that Dr Clark, a Fellow of All Souls, appears not to have read all of the book about which he makes such misleading assertions. The British right can surely do better than this when it tries to knock down its critics' arguments.

Yours sincerely,
WILL HUTTON
(Economics Editor),
The Guardian,
119 Farringdon Road, EC1.
February 8.

Culture gap

From Mr Roger Beetham

Sir, You ask (leading article, February 4) "Where is Jack Lang?" I do not know where he was on that day, but it was certainly not, as your editorialist assumes, in the Ministry of Culture in Paris, which he left nearly two years ago when the French Socialist Party lost the parliamentary election.

It was thus not "his" Government, but that of M Balladur, which so defended the cultural exception in the closing months of the Gatt negotiations.

I am, Sir, etc,
ROGER BEETHAM,
3 rue Massenet,
67000 Strasbourg.
February 5.

Merits and drawbacks of a single European currency

From Mr George R. J. Guise

Sir, Full European monetary union (letter from Mr Rodney Leach and others, February 9) is bound to lead to tax harmonisation throughout the EU. Surpluses will accumulate in the more productive northern member states while deficits grow in the less productive southern states, with an ever-increasing Brussels bureaucracy engaged in redistribution.

This would be made so much more administratively convenient by centralised taxation, rather than by continued individual member contributions, that the Commission will make all efforts to pursue it. It will even be argued that bureaucracy and administration costs will be reduced.

This would mean that future general elections could no longer be about different tax regimes but only about differing personalities. Voter choice would be confined to selecting which individuals would go to Westminster in order to implement tax policies received from outside.

This would profoundly alter the nature of the political divide, because the main difference between right and left in a modern democracy is that the former wish to keep and spend their own money whereas the latter wish to impound and spend other people's. A modern general election, in the United States or Western Europe, is essentially a beauty contest between different tax regimes. A single currency must therefore ultimately lead to the futility of general elections in member states.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE R. J. GUISE
(Prime Minister's
Policy Unit, 1986-90),
90 Long Acre, WC2.
February 9.

From Sir Peter Hordern, MP for Horsham (Conservative)

Sir, By the year 2000 we shall probably have to deal with a new single currency in Germany, France and The Netherlands, at least. For if they want a single currency, and if they conform to the Maastricht criteria, nothing can stop them. Such a currency (call it the ecu) will be managed by a new European Central Bank, run on the same lines as the Bundesbank, but replacing it. It will be a strong currency, widely held within the European Union, and most widely traded in London.

Since we do more business with Germany, France and The Netherlands than with most countries, and since our trading partners will wish to settle their business in the ecu, we are also likely to find growing demand for it within Britain.

It would, of course, be a common, not a single currency, but because of its strength and widespread business use, it would be a serious competitor to sterling. And given the performance of sterling against the DM over the last 50 years, it is likely that the interest rate on ecu-denominated bonds would be lower than on sterling bonds, and thus be attractive, both to industry and to the Government, in raising money.

We do not have to sign up for a single currency in 1997 — nor, perhaps, would it be wise to do so. But it would be most unwise to rule out a single currency for all time if British business decides that this is what it wants. Our attitude in these matters should be one of benevolent neutrality, always ready to accept what people and business wish to do of their own accord.

One day that may well lead to a common ecu or even a single European currency.

Yours sincerely,
PETER HORDERN,
House of Commons.
February 8.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, It is not good enough for the Government to avoid taking a position on a single currency now. As the EC develops, issue after issue is being resolved and, as Bruce Anderson says ("Major's three steps to Euro peace", February 7), "it is not possible to have our own way on every issue. There is no alternative to negotiations and compromise".

In a situation of perpetual deal-making, unless you have an absolutely clear idea of what your ultimate objective is and also what destinations are unacceptable, then you will totally lose your way. The question of a single currency is significant because it is not possible to have anything that could be called a single currency without having one central bank and, effectively, a federal government. A single currency is not essential to a single market but is vital in a unified State.

It is therefore not possible to entrust management of day-to-day EC negotiations to a government that does not know today where it stands on such an issue. It is the Government's prevarication that is damaging our interests, not the nation's reluctance to go beyond the concept of a single market.

Yours faithfully,
G. THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8.

From Mr Walter Grey

Sir, A single European currency, say Mr Rodney Leach and others, "is not indispensable to expanding exports".

But exclusion from it would surely handicap British exporters to European Union countries relatively to their EU rivals, a handicap for which a downwardly mobile pound, more likely to be indicative of greater domestic inflationary pressures, could not be relied on to compensate.

Incidentally, if Britain has "resolutely" shunned inflation "since leaving the ERM", does this not, rather, reflect the ERM's example, and the need to match its performance, in that vital area of economic management?

Yours faithfully,
W. GREY,
12 Arden Road, Finchley, N3.
February 9.

From Sir Ian Morrow

Sir, For generations industry and commerce have found it profitable to use, over a large part of their transactions, a common currency — first sterling and latterly the US dollar.

Whatever happens in Europe, industry and commerce will sooner, rather than later, use a "common currency". It might even be sterling.

Yours truly,
IAN MORROW,
2 Albert Terrace Mews, NW1.
February 9.

From Mr Charles Wide

Sir, The Prime Minister says that the decision whether to join a single European currency can only be made in the light of the, presently unforeseeable, circumstances of the day. But what about the unforeseeable circumstances of the next day? Or the day after that? Once we have lost control of our affairs, could we get it back?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WIDE,
Church Cottage, Main Street,
Glapthorn,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.
February 10.

Flood risks

From Professor Dennis J. Parker

Sir, Professor Ward is right to identify the dangers of human encroachment into flood-prone areas (letter, February 9). The floods in northern Europe have been a reminder to us in Britain that despite our flood defences, many areas remain exposed and vulnerable to exceptional floods and that we are storing up problems for the future.

Urban development and investment is progressing at a rapid rate in our flood-prone areas, in spite of planning controls. Despite the risks, permitting development in flood-prone areas relieves pressure to encroach upon the green belt and other protected conservation areas.

Although the Thames barrier and related defences currently protect London to a high standard from tidal surge flooding, London's actual and planned eastward development along the Thames is likely to increase the flood hazard in the long term.

The dramatic events in parts of The Netherlands demonstrate that flood defences need not be overtopped or breached for a major emergency to occur, causing disruption and evacuation.

All that is required is uncertainty, understandable nervousness amongst the authorities and for the defences to be seriously threatened. For these reasons the standard of protection provided by our flood defences against flood emergencies, as opposed to floods, could be rather less than we imagine.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS PARKER,
Flood Hazard Research Centre,
Middlesex University,
Queensway,
Enfield, Middlesex.
February 10.

Annual parliaments

From Mr Bob May

Sir, The Chartists' call for annual parliaments was dismissed on the grounds of practicality and the need for stability and continuity. However, if MPs were elected for four-year terms on a rolling basis, with a quarter coming up for re-election each year, would democracy not be better served?

It might do something about that unattractive feature of the current system, the safe seat. With elections each year, the first Thursday in May could be quite an occasion, and perhaps a fitting day for a public holiday.

Yours faithfully,
BOB MAY,
3 Swan Meadow,
Much Wenlock, Shropshire.
February 11.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Boot camps

From Mr Peter Coad

Sir, The proposed introduction of American-style "boot camps" in Britain to provide "tougher and more physically demanding regimes aimed at knocking criminal tendencies out of young offenders" is an excellent idea (report, February 6; "Hard times at boot camp", February 8).

It will be a valuable sentencing option for young criminals. The programmes are a useful combination of punishment, discipline and healthy exercise. For many it will be their first experience of punishment for offending, as well as a lesson in the difference between right and wrong.

Harry Fletcher, Assistant General Secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, is wrong to criticise this innovation by citing the failure rate of the "short, sharp, shock" detention centres of the 1980s. The majority of offenders sent there were already well established persistent criminals so it is not surprising that there were high reconviction rates.

The Probation Service currently supervises mainly persistent offenders with equally high reconviction rates, without the protection for society that incarceration provides.

It is not penal establishments that fail, only the discharged inmates who freely *choose* to continue offending.

Yours faithfully,
PETER COAD
(Senior probation officer, retired),
20 Druid Woods,
Stoke Bishop, Bristol, Avon.
February 8.

Crown court fees

From Mr David Calvert-Smith

Sir, As leader of the Bar team in negotiation with the Lord Chancellor's Department on the crown court fees scheme referred to in Frances Gibb's report (February 3), may I make three short points on a complex topic?

First, the basic shape of the proposed scheme, which will make an important contribution to controlling expenditure, was devised, and negotiations were initiated, by the Bar.

Second, the proposals being negotiated do not involve the extension of the standard fee system currently in operation. The scheme involves the replacement of the standard fee by a wider system of "graduated" fees which will broadly reward the advocate according to the seriousness of the offence(s) with which his client is charged and the amount of work involved.

Third, both sides have agreed that this scheme cannot be expected to apply to all cases lasting ten days or less as suggested in your report, although we expect that the vast majority of such cases will come within it.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CALVERT-SMITH,
General Council of the Bar,
3 Bedford Row, WC1.
February 3.

Executives' pay

From Mr John W. Lavington

Sir, On the assumption that before privatisation the senior executives of the privatised industries were paid only a fraction of their worth [reports, February 2, 6; letters, February 2, 4 8], is it not surprising that not one of the many recruitment agencies sought to draw on such a vast pool of inadequately rewarded talent?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN W. LAVINGTON,
The Ferry House,
38 Trowlock Island,
Teddington, Middlesex.
February 6.

Earthly riches

From Mrs Maggie Innes

Sir, The Church of England finds it "a sad day when we have to dispose of our greatest asset" (report, February 8). I think it is a sad day when any church, whether of England or anywhere else, considers the MetroCentre shopping centre in Gateshead its greatest asset.

Yours faithfully,
MAGGIE INNES,
26 Lark Rise,
Martlesham Heath, Suffolk.
February 8.

Influence of TV

From Mr David Simpson

Sir, It has often been said that children do not act out what they see on television. Well, my seven-year-old son, having watched *Home Alone* this week, is busy fixing string across every doorway, placing little bits of Lego in strategic places, leaving the bathroom floor wet and slippery and no doubt at this moment is wiring the front-door handle into the mains. Perhaps the experts should think again, and quickly please ...

Yours apprehensively,
DAVID SIMPSON,
10 Ruscombe Gardens,
Datchet, Berkshire.
February 8.

Must try harder

From Mr Danny Koffman

Sir, Mrs Young's letter (February 9) reminds me of a similar experience. My progress, some time ago, through the local grammar school at Eastbourne was three years behind that of my older brother. When my father saw that my maths homework was to solve a series of quadratic equations he offered to help with alacrity.

My maths master glanced at my work as I handed it in the next day and observed: "I don't think your father will ever understand algebra."

Yours faithfully,
DANNY KOFFMAN,
10 Kinloss Gardens, Finchley, N3.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 11: The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor, University of Edinburgh, this morning chaired a meeting of the General Council in the Senate Room, Old College, and later attended a Luncheon at the University.

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, today attended the Race Day at Uttoxeter Racecourse and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Staffordshire (Mr James Hawley).

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

February 12: Mr Hugh Roberts was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 11: The Duchess of Kent this afternoon arrived at RAF Northolt from Copenhagen.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

February 12: The Duke of Kent this afternoon left RAF Northolt for Dresden, Germany, to attend the commemorations marking the 50th Anniversary of the destruction of Dresden.

Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Mr Michael Attenborough, executive producer, Royal Shakespeare Company, 45; Dr D.V. Atterton, chairman, Guinness Mahon Holdings, 68; Mr David Banks, editorial director, MGN, 47; Miss Caroline Blakiston, actress, 62; Mr Liam Brady, footballer, 39; Professor Derek Burke, vice-chancellor, University of East Anglia, 65; Earl Cadogan, 81; Dr J.P. Clayton, former Apothecary to HM Household at Windsor, 74; Miss M.E. Collins, former matron-in-chief, QARNNS, 68; Mr Gareth Davies, chairman, Glynwed International, 65; Baroness Flather, 61; Dr D.G. Hessayon, horticultural and agricultural author, 67; Professor Lord Lewis of Newnham, 67; Mr John McAllion, MP, 47; Mr Gordon McMaster, MP, 35; Lord Manners, 72; Mr Colin Matthews, composer, 49; the Earl of Moray, 67; Miss Kim Novak, actress, 62; Mr Leonard Pascoe, cricketer, 45; Lord Peyton of Yeovil, 76; Lord Pym, 73; Mr Oliver Reed, actor, 57; Miss Margaretta Scott, actress, 83; Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, author and politician, 71; Dr Donald Sykes, former principal, Mansfield College, Oxford, 65.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Hunter, physiologist and surgeon, East Kilbride, 1728; David Allan, painter, Alloa, 1744; Lord Randolph Churchill, statesman, Blenheim Palace, 1849; Feodor Chaliapin, singer and actor, Kazan, Russia, 1873; Eleanor Farjeon, writer of children's verse and stories, London, 1881; Georges Simenon, writer and creator of Maigret, Liege, 1901.

DEATHS: Benvenuto Cellini, sculptor and goldsmith, Florence, 1571; Jacopo da Bassano, painter, Bassano, Venice, 1592; Cotton Mather, Puritan and writer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1728; Richard Wagner, composer, Venice, 1883; Georges Rouault, expressionist painter, Paris, 1958; Dame Christabel Pankhurst, suffragette, Los Angeles, 1958.

The Accession of William III and Mary in 1689.

The massacre of the Macdonalds at Glencoe by the Campbells in 1692.

The Dutch spy Mata Hari was arrested by the French in 1917.

The Nuffield Foundation was established in 1943.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the USSR in 1974.

MARTIN BEDDALL

Nigel Mills, the Mudlarks' secretary, searches the Thames river bank in the traditional manner, using a hand trowel rather than a metal detector

Mudlarks fear hunting ban

By Robin Barnwell

A GROUP of metal detecting enthusiasts, whose patient probing of the Thames mud has found everything from pilgrims' badges to a beautiful 17th Century ring, fear proposed European laws could end their activities.

Despite having fought off two earlier attempts to stop their excavations, the Thames Society of Mudlarks in London fear that the growing momentum among European governments to protect national treasures will hasten the introduction of Europe-wide controls. According to the Mudlarks, treasure hunting by metal detector is restricted in France, Germany, Sweden and Ireland.

Last week the announced sale of a 17th Century gold ring with a unique diamond-encrusted design rekindled interest in the activities of the Mudlarks, one of whose members made the find.

The ring, with an estimated value of £20,000, is the society's third historically significant discovery since its foundation in 1980. In 1984 a 15th Century necklace fetched a similar price, while the projected sale of another ring, later in the year, is expected to set a record at auction.

The Mudlarks are the product of a dispute in the late 1970s between the Port of London Authority, the Museum of London and the growing band of treasure hunters along the Thames foreshore. PLA regulations banning digging between Blackfriars and Tower bridges prompted several excavators to form a pressure group to campaign for renewed access.

The new group named itself the Mudlarks and appointed Nigel Mills as its first secretary. He said: "Members are passionate about their collecting and often have a specialist knowledge of the items they excavate."

The first "mudlarks" were discovered by Henry Mayhew, a journalist in Dickensian London. They were the children of the poor, trawling the mud for valuables.

Present day versions such as Mr Mills use old maps of London and details of Canaletto paintings as guides. These sources reveal the locations of the network of steps leading to the water boatmen, who for centuries piloted Londoners across the Thames. It is here that the losses of the past are found: dropped jewellery, a pilgrim's badge, the water boatman's wages or the gentleman's sword, preserved in the mud over the years.

Memorial service

Mr Tom Keeble

A service to celebrate the life of Mr Tom Keeble was held on Saturday at St Andrew's, Oakington, Cambridge. The Rev James Alexander officiated and the Reverend A.A. Macintosh, Dean of St John's College, Cambridge, read the college prayer.

The Rev Hugh Alexander read the lesson and Nicholas Keeble, grandson, read from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. Mr Giles Keeble, son, gave an address.

Nature notes

The grey heron will be laying eggs this month

GREENFINCHES are leaving the winter flocks and returning to their nesting territories. The males are olive green with grey and gold wings, and are sitting in the trees making their wheezing spring call. By lakesides, male reed buntings are swaying on the tops of bulrushes to deliver their jerky song. In the winter, their head-feathers have brown tips, but these have worn off to leave them with a bright black cap and a sharply-defined white collar.

Grey herons are back by their bulky tree-top nests, where they are forming pairs. The male points his long bill at the sky and makes a honking noise. When an interested female settles by him, he bows his head forward and snaps his mandibles. Some females will be laying eggs before the end of the month. In the mountains, ravens are repairing their nests of sticks and heather on the cliff ledges, regardless of the weather.

Most of the pearly-white mistletoe berries have now been eaten by birds, and there are already new yellow flowers in the forks between the pairs of leaves. Pagoda-shaped plants of goosegrass are coming up in the ditches but many of them will be overwhelmed by later vegetation. DJM

Utley awards worth £4,000

ASPIRING journalists still at school or university can win £4,000 in prize money in this year's T.E. Utley Memorial Awards, set up in 1988 in memory of the distinguished political journalist.

Two awards will be given for unpublished essays that develop the proposition once advanced by Utley, a powerful champion of the Union: "The question of Ulster is one which profoundly concerns what, in the old-fashioned phrase, is called 'the honour and interest of Britain'."

This year's judges, chaired by Dominic Lawson, Editor of *The Spectator*, will look for intelligence, wit and clear English.

The university award, open to all students enrolled at university and aged under 25, is £2,500; the school award to all students at secondary schools and aged under 18, is £1,500. Typescripts, with relevant details, to Secretary of the Fund, 38 Aldridge Road Villas, London W11 1BW, by April 30.

Latest wills

Mrs Hermine **Asamor**, of London SW3	£1,097,106
Mrs Lilian Frances Penelope **Bletchly** of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire	£777,703
Mr Leonard Albert **Deverill**, of Peterston Super Ely, South Glamorgan	£759,427
Mr John Dennis **Driver**, of Builth Wells, Powys	£558,601
Mr Malcolm **Garvin**, of Regents Park, London NW1	£664,820
Mrs Pamela Ann **Hicks**, of Stowmarket, Suffolk	£1,628,216
Mr Basil Albert Percy **Jury**, of London SW17	£523,946
Mrs Irene Cecilia **Larkin**, of Bexhill, East Sussex	£508,662
Eleanor Constance **Macbeath** of Warlingham, Surrey	£556,050
Mrs Cherry **Stevens**, of Goudhurst, Kent	£680,812
Mr Frank Kenneth **Wall**, of Walmley, West Midlands,	£964,681
Mr Joseph Abram **Wernick**, of Wolverhampton	£954,566
Mr Joseph Lionel **Bostock**, of Scarborough, North Yorkshire,	£635,443
Mr Ian Peter **Burgess**, of Ludlow, Salop	£559,178
Mr David Arthur **Evans**, of Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire,	£727,825
Mr John Howard **Harvey**, of Parbold, Lancashire	£523,592

Sir John Soane's Museum

The Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum appointed Mrs Margaret Richardson to succeed Mr Peter Thornton as Curator from April 8, 1995. Three new Life Trustees, Sir Philip Powell, CH, Mrs Bridget Cherry and Mr Richard Griffiths were recently appointed in place of Viscount Esher, Sir Trenchard Cox and Sir Denys Buckley, who retired in 1994.

Reception

Austrian Ambassador

The Austrian Ambassador, Dr Georg Hennig, gave a reception on Thursday at the Hyde Park Hotel for members of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and other Jewish organisations to meet President Klestil of Austria. Sir Sigmund Sternberg led the delegation which included Lord Wolfson, of Marylebone, Lord Young of Graffham and Mr Sidney Corob, CBE.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.F.H. Dickinson and Miss S.J. Smith

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Dickinson, of Bath, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Smith, of Saltford, Avon.

Mr I.R. Drew and Miss M. Puhr

The engagement is announced between Ian Robert, second son of Mr Robert George Drew and the late Mrs Drew, of Fulham, London, and Maureen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Franjo Puhr, of Samobor, Croatia.

Mr A.C. Goodenough and Miss M-P.C. Lucchesi

The engagement is announced between Andrew Charles, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs Eric Goodenough, of Preston Fields, Warwickshire, and Maria-Pia Camilla, daughter of Signor and Signora Elio Lucchesi, of Lucca, Tuscany.

Mr B.J.W. Hubble and Miss Z.J. Sinclair

The engagement is announced between Ben, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Hubble, of Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, and Zara, daughter of Dr and Mrs M.J. Sinclair, of London.

Mr S.D.A. Jamieson and Lady Laura Fortescue

The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Lady Mariegold Jamieson and the late Jerry Jamieson, of Yarrow House, North Elmham, Norfolk, and Laura, eldest daughter of Mrs Jocelyn Hambro and the late Earl Fortescue, of Green Farm, Oddington, Gloucestershire.

Marriages

Mr D.I.A.C. Byatt and Miss A.M. Loyd

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Peter's, Wolferton, Norfolk, of Mr Duncan Ian Arthur Campbell Byatt, younger son of Sir Hugh and Lady Campbell Byatt, of Leargnahension, Argyll, to Miss Alexandra Mary Loyd, elder daughter of Sir Julian and Lady Loyd, of Burnham Market, Norfolk. Canon George Hall officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Katie Daniel, Alice Charrington, Roberto and Emily Granosio, Douglas and Emma Byatt and Oliver Faire. Mr Andrew Watt was best man. A reception was held in the ballroom at Sandringham House and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Dr J.H. Davies and Dr T.E. Sheraton

The marriage took place on February 4, 1995, at St Mark's Church, Newport, of Dr Justin Huw Davies, eldest son of the late Dr Huw Coram Davies and of Mrs Jeremy Rubin, of Cardiff, to Dr Tei Elizabeth Sheraton, daughter of John and Takeko Sheraton, of Leigh on Sea.

The bride was dressed by Mrs Sueko Osato and attended by Dr Pamela Yerassimou, Dr Donna Morgan, Shira Rubin and Miriam Prichard. Dr Surinder Sagoo was best man. A reception was held at Cardiff Castle.

Mr P.C. Maxlow-Tomlinson and Mrs J.M. Berkkan

The marriage took place quietly in London on February 6, between Mr Paul Christian Maxlow-Tomlinson and Mrs Julia Berkkan, née Pipe-Wolferstan.

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All inspired scripture has its use for teaching the truth and refuting error, or for reformation of manners and discipline in right living.
2 Timothy 3 : 16 (REB).

BIRTHS

BENTLEY - On February 7th, to Sue (née Yeates) and Gordon, a beautiful daughter, Ellen Alexandra.

BOWMER - On February 7th, to Maria (John) and Richard, a beautiful daughter, Cerys Anwen, sister to Antony.

GRAY - On January 31st to Anne-Marie (née de Dax d'Axat) and Charles, a son, Louis John Bernard.

HUTCHINSON - On 9th February, 1995, at Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath, to Fiona (née Trounson) and Mark, a daughter, Tessa Janet Catherine, a sister for Isabelle.

LeROY-LEWIS - On 9th February 1995, at The Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Annie (née Macpherson) and Jérôme, a son, Noah Marion. Sadly he did not live.

DEATHS

BANNISTER - On February 9th, peacefully in his 101st year, in Newquay Hospital, Arthur Leonard (Bill) Bannister MBE, beloved husband of Evelyn (decd.), father of Richard and grandfather to Tom and Pippa. Funeral Service at St Mawgan Parish Church on Tuesday 14th February at 11 am, followed by cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Marie Curie Foundation c/o the Funeral Director T.B. Henwood & Son, The Pargolla Funeral Home, Marcus Hill, Newquay. (0637) 873193.

DUBLIN - It is with deepest regret that we announce the death of Mrs Corinne Dublin on Wednesday February 8th 1995 after a long battle against cancer. Wife of Richard and mother of Virgil, Selwyn, Dawn, Brian and Robert. The funeral will be held on Friday February 17th at St Joseph's Church, Highgate. Family flowers only. Donations to the Corinne Dublin Trust Fund to go to Cancer Research and The Starlight Foundation for Terminally Ill Children, 6 Cowper Road, London N16 8PF.

FREETH - Phyllis, formerly of Shaldon, Devon, peacefully in hospital in Southampton, Hants., on Friday 10th February. Widow of Jim Freeth, dearly loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service on Friday 17th February at Southampton Crematorium, East Chapel, at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations to The Stroke Association may be sent to A.H. Chester, Funeral Directors, Romsey, Hants.

GORDON - On February 9th, suddenly at his home, Donald, dearly loved husband of Molly, and father of Anna and Crispin. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Mount Park Road, Ealing, 1 pm on Friday February 17th. No mourning at his request. Family flowers only please.

HANKINSON - Peter, Clive, Downs. On 9th February 1995 after a long and valiant fight against cancer. Beloved husband of Vera and sadly mourned by dear friend Geoffrey and other friends and relatives. Funeral at St Peters, Mount Park Road, Ealing W13, on Thursday 16th at 2pm. Enquiries to W S Bond, 19 Bond Street, Ealing W5. 081 567 0422.

HENRY - Peacefully at Millimber, Aberdeen, on Wednesday 8th February 1995, Helena McRae, beloved wife of the late Dr. James Henry and well-loved aunt. Body left for medical research.

KINGHAM - On February 8th 1995, tragically in a road accident, His Honour James Frederick Kingham MA (Cantab), D.L. Beloved husband of Vivienne, devoted father of Sarah, Emma, Simon and Guy, adored grandfather of Sinéad and father-in-law of Barry, Peter and Sue. Dearly loved and missed by all his family and many friends. Private Cremation - A service of thanksgiving will follow at St Mary's Parish Church, Luton on Thursday 16th February at 2.00pm. Family flowers only please: donations, if desired to be distributed to James' favourite charities. Cheques made payable to "James Kingham Thanksgiving Fund" may be sent to Alan Dyer Chief Constable of Bedfordshire, c/o Bedfordshire Police HQ, Woburn Road, Kempston, Bedford. MK43 9AX. Further enquiries to Neville Funeral Service, Luton (01582 490005).

LEE - John, late of RMPE, died 8th February 1995. Funeral St Mary's, North Mimms, Wednesday 15th February 11.30 am.

MOORE - On 7th February 1995 in London, Jolyon Christopher with his devoted wife Carolyn (née Pope) & parents Peter & Margaret, & brothers Hylton & Christian after an illness borne with tremendous courage. Funeral on Friday 17th February, 2.30 pm at Putney Vale Crematorium. Flowers &/or donations to Operation Raleigh (071) 371-8585.

MYLNE - On February 9th, Robert Euan Athol, beloved husband of Gillian, and devoted father of Crispin, Thomas and Euan. Service at Bishops Sutton Parish Church tomorrow Tuesday February 14th at 2.30 p.m. No flowers. Donations if desired to Countess Mountbatten House c/o Jno Steel and Son, Chesil House, Winchester.

PAGE - On 4th February 1995, peacefully in St Thomas' Hospital, Alicia Hope Page, aged 88. Funeral Service at St Paul's Church Clapham, at 9.30 am on Monday 20th February. No flowers. Donations if desired to The Royal National Institute for the Deaf, 105 Gower Street, WC1E 6AH. Hope will be deeply missed.

SMITH - On February 10th, peacefully at home, John McGregor Fraser I.S.O. MOD. (retd). Beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Cremation at St John's Crematorium, Woking at 2.30pm on February 16th. No flowers by request.

STIMPSON - On February 10th 1995, peacefully in hospital, Catherine Isobel Jessie (née Macgregor), of Church Langton, aged 78 years. Much loved wife of Kenneth, devoted mother of Fiona and Catriona and a loving granny.

TACKABERRY - Francis Raphael Gerard. On 7th February 1995 peacefully at Farnborough Hospital aged 85. Adored father of Sophie and Douglas. Funeral Service at 10 am on 23rd February 1995 at St Joseph's Church, Plaistow Lane, Bromley followed by burial at London Road Cemetery, Bromley. All enquiries to Douglas Tackaberry, 1st floor, 12 Hammelton Rd, Bromley, BR1 3PY. tel: 0181-466 6934.

TOLLEMACHE - On February 11th at her home in Suffolk, Angela Mariota, aged 94. Funeral strictly private at her request, no flowers.

WARRACK - On 8th February 1995, peacefully, Olive (née Levelis-Marke) aged 91 years. Mother of Father Colin S.J. and Neil (South Africa), greatly loved and missed by her sons, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends. Requiem Mass at St Wilfrid's, 29 The Street, Chelsea, at 10 am on Friday 17th February followed by burial Gunnersbury Cemetery.

THE TIMES

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MEMORIAL SERVICES

GARNHAM - The Memorial Service for Professor Percy Cyril Claude Garnham will be held at St Bartholomew The Great, West Smithfield, London, at 2.30 pm on Tuesday March 7th.

IN MEMORIAM – WAR

HARRIS - (Bomber Harris) In memory and admiration of a brave leader of courageous men, whose just actions saved so many British lives. Lindsey.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

BUNTER - Ruby May (née Gilmore) - 11th February 1994 - a beautiful and gracious lady so loving and so loved by all especially by David, Michael, Nigel, Alexandra, Matthew, Thomas, Margaret and Joan.

HOOPER - Margaret Lillian. In ever loving memory of my mother who passed away on February 13th, 1993. Much loved and sorely missed. Brian.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

COMPTON - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sheila Compton M.B.E., will be held at St Mary Le Bow Church, Cheapside, London EC2 on Wednesday 22nd February at 2.30pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 1st March 1995 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq. A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business day preceding the Meeting of Creditors. DATED THIS 8th February 1995 G Croft - Director.

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
Oceath Limited
Registered number: 1639201.
Nature of business: Construction - Electrical & Plumbing.
Trade classification: 27
Date of appointment of administrative reciever(s): 2 February 1995.
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): Lloyds Bank Plc.
Raymond Hocking and Malcolm Cohen Joint Administrative Receivers
(office holder nos) 2322/01 and 6825/11).
Address: BDO Stoy Hayward
8 Baker Street.
London
W1M 1DA

LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
EAST COAST TRAVEL LIMITED
IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ian Franses, Licenced Insolvency Practitioner of Ian Franses Associates, Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company on the 31st March 1995. All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to Mr Eric Popat at Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP.
I Franses
Liquidator

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
BLUEWHEEL TRAVEL LIMITED
IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ian Franses, Licenced Insolvency Practitioner of Ian Franses Associates, Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company on the 3rd February 1995. All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to Mr Eric Popat at Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP.
I Franses
Liquidator.

Orchid Hotels Limited
- In Administrative Receivership -
Registered Number: 2601895

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at The Royal Court Hotel, Tamworth Road, Keresley, Coventry CV7 8JG on 24 February 1995 at 14.00 hrs for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.
Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers at BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London, W1M 1DA, not later than 12.00 hrs on 25 February 1995 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of The Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to use on his behalf.
G S Kinlan
Joint Administrative Receiver

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JOHN HALAS

John Halas, OBE, film animator, died in London on January 20 aged 82. He was born in Budapest on April 16, 1912.

John Halas with one of his drawings for *Animal Farm*

A HUNGARIAN-born film-maker who came to epitomise the British style of film animation, John Halas was an influential force in an era when British animation dominated the medium. The Halas and Batchelor studio, which Halas set up with his wife Joy Batchelor, was for more than 40 years the largest animation studio in the UK, producing more than two thousand films ranging from cinema features, television series, commercials and experimental productions.

These films, which between them won hundreds of awards, included *Animal Farm*, an animated version of George Orwell's novel produced in 1954 which was the first feature-length cartoon film made in Britain.

Growing up in Budapest, John Halas was strongly influenced by the Hungarian Bauhaus movement, and his encounters with such figures as Moholy-Nagy and Victor Vassarelly. He lost close friends and relatives in the Holocaust and his films had the recurring theme of a world destroyed by war, pollution, and technology out of control. For instance, *Automania 2000* (1963) shows the world grinding to a halt piled up with cars. *The Question* seeks the meaning of life through politics, religion, art, and science. His award-winning film *Dilemma* (1981) used computer techniques to look at mankind's problems and the efforts to control them.

Halas studied painting and animation; he worked with George Pal the puppeteer film maker, and formed his first studio in Hungary in 1932. He later went to Paris briefly before moving in 1936 to London, where he met Joy Batchelor, then working as an animator and fashion artist. In 1940 they established a small studio, and joined the J. Walter Thompson film unit, making commercials. In the same year they married, and formed their own company, Halas and Batchelor, but were promptly bombed out.

With the war came the demand for propaganda films. Through an introduction by John Grierson, the documentary film maker, the Central Office of Information then hired the studio to make a series of films which eventually numbered 70. Commissions followed from other Government departments and the company expanded fast, becoming the largest animation studio in the UK and remaining so until the 1980s.

Halas's particular strength was as an organiser. He had inexhaustible energy and travelled the world producing and involving himself in film projects until a few months before his death. As a founder member, and for many years the president, of ASIFA, the international animation organisation, he promoted animation around the world. With his interest in graphics as a key element in the art of animation, he involved himself with the international design association ICOGRADA of which he was president for some time. He was also chairman of the British Federation of Film Societies. For some years he held these posts concurrently as well as being a full-time producer.

He was a prolific writer on animation, producing hundreds of articles and collaborating on many animation books including *Art in Movement*, *Computer Animation* and *Visual Scripting*. He also produced a series of video interviews with leading international animators, thus preserving a heritage that might have been lost. Over and above this he involved himself in the organising of conferences, festivals, and training schemes.

On a personal level, Halas had an old world, central European charm. In spite of living in the UK for nearly 60 years, he still retained a strong Hungarian accent. Such Goldwynisms as, "To put it in a short nutshell", and "We are neck to neck", were also his trademark. Dinners at his beautiful Hampstead house would bring together illustrious names and unknown talents. Many animators made essential contacts for their careers through such meetings.

He could at times show aspects of eccentric meanness and extreme generosity. He had animation pegbars and paper made in a non-standard size so no one would take them, a saving at most of a few pounds. Yet for many years he funded the UK ASIFA office at his own expense, which must have cost thousands.

The true legacy of John Halas was his insight into how animation could best be used. Early on he perceived its value as a documentary and teaching medium. He advised the United Nations on using animation as a universal language for third world countries. He also saw how animation could be developed with new technology. His studio experimented with holography, 3D systems, computer animation, xeroxed drawings, and a whole range of new techniques and styles well before their general acceptance by the industry as a whole.

Twenty years ago he was saying, "Computers will give us the art of the future" and his studio was the first to use computers for regular animation. His book *Computer Animation* was the first on the subject here, and he helped to promote the concepts in this field.

John Halas was appointed OBE in 1972 and awarded the Pro Cultura Hungaricus in 1992. His wife died in 1991. He leaves a son and daughter.

HIS HONOUR JAMES KINGHAM

His Honour James Kingham, DL, formerly a Circuit judge, died on February 8 aged 69. He was born on August 9, 1925.

JAMES KINGHAM was a very active barrister and Circuit judge, who on his retirement from the bench at the age of 65 embarked on a third career as a law lecturer.

Educated at Wycliffe College, James Frederick Kingham went up to Queen's College, Cambridge, where he read history and law. From 1943 until 1947 he served as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm. He was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1951 and was soon a busy practitioner in London and on the Midland Circuit.

When a large number of young barristers felt they were under-represented on the Bar Council, they selected him as the candidate most likely to attract the votes of his generation. As a result he served as an excellent member of his profession's governing body from 1954 until 1958.

His judicial experience began with a spell as a part-time judge, sitting as a deputy Recorder of Nottingham from 1966 to 1972. With the introduction of the Crown Court he was appointed a Recorder in his own right, being promoted to a Circuit judge in 1973. He served as such for 17 years, mainly in Luton County Court, where much of his time was devoted to hearing cases involving children, for which he had a special aptitude.

The welfare of young people was his greatest inspiration throughout his adult life. He devoted a considerable part of his spare time to the Scout movement, in particular to Venture Scouts. He was a great believer in getting young people involved in mountain climbing, skiing and other sports, and was an able all-round instructor. He could not go far without being stopped for a chat by a police-constable or other young men who had been one of his Venture Scouts.

Kingham was a committed Christian with a strong sense of social responsibility: his concern was not merely for his scouts, but for his neighbour generally. He and his wife Vivienne and their children consistently gave help to youngsters with emotional or other problems. Their warm family home was a refuge for many in need. His valuable work for young people was acknowledged when he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire in 1989.

He retired from the bench at the age of 65, although entitled to sit until 72. He retired early mainly because he longed to teach law and do other things.

Immediately after his retirement James Kingham started teaching at Cambridge, and he was soon asked to undertake law lecturing for commercial undertakings as well. He also spoke on current legal topics on his local radio station. From 1991 he served on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, and more recently, also on the Parole Board. He was even busier after his retirement than before — but that was how he wanted it. He did not approve of the word "retirement" but preferred to speak of his "new career". He was driving to Cambridge to teach when he was involved in the four-vehicle crash in which he died.

He is survived by his wife Vivienne and their two daughters and two sons.

ART TAYLOR

Art Taylor, jazz drummer and author, died in New York on February 6 aged 65. He was born there on April 6, 1929.

HARD bop was the movement in jazz that followed the bebop revolution of the 1940s and replaced the harmonic and melodic experiments of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie with a lean, aggressive, pared down version of their invention, cross-fertilised with soul. Art Taylor was a leading figure in this transition, although he was a drummer of such talent that he was sought out to play in many other styles.

His prolific recording career encompassed work with Coleman Hawkins, Miles Davis, Dexter Gordon and, in particular, John Coltrane with whom he cut the hugely influential *Soultrane* and *Giant Steps* albums in the late 1950s. As a bandleader in his own right, Taylor led his own Wailers, a group formed in the 1950s, and re-formed in the late 1980s, when it became a training ground for many new jazz players.

Taylor's career as a drummer would in itself have guaranteed him a place in jazz history, since he appeared on more than 300 recording sessions. In 1968, however, he began a series of interviews with his fellow musicians designed to record their views on jazz and society. Unable to find a commercial publisher, he published the results of his work himself, while living in Belgium, in 1977. News of the book, *Notes and Tones*, spread, and it became regarded as a valuable oral history document, being republished in the United States after Robert Palmer, writing in *The New York Times* said, "no matter who you are or what group you come from, if you read this book you'll get mad at some of the opinion these musicians express".

Arthur S. Taylor Jr, grew up in Harlem and, after studying with Chick Morrison, used to jam in a local church hall with other up-and-coming musicians, such as Sonny Rollins and Jackie McLean. He made his professional debut in 1948 with trumpeter Howard McGhee and went on to play and record with many major figures including Bud Powell, with whom he worked frequently during the pianist's short and tragic career, both in the US and in France.

When he came to interview his subjects for *Notes and Tones*, Taylor always devoted questions to Powell, doing much to shed some light on a career shrouded in obscurity and confusion.

He discovered the attraction of Europe in the mid-1950s, when he toured with Donald Byrd. Taylor settled in Belgium in 1963, and played regularly in Belgium, Denmark and France with fellow expatriates, including Powell, Gordon and Johnny Griffin. He played infrequently in the 1970s, but returned to the French club circuit in 1984 and then moved back to the US, where he re-established his band and taught master-classes, as well as hosting a regular interview programme on the local radio station WKCR.

Many of Taylor's earlier records have recently been reissued. His most recent disc, *Wailin' at the Vanguard*, recorded in 1992, had been released to critical acclaim, especially for his abilities as a talent spotter in launching the careers of saxophonist Willie Williams and pianist Jacky Terrasson.

ADOLF BUTENANDT

Adolf Butenandt, chemist and Nobel prize winner in 1939, died on January 18 aged 91. He was born in Bremerhaven-Lehe (now Wesermünde) on March 24, 1903.

ADOLF BUTENANDT was responsible for isolating the sex hormones oestrone, androsterone and progesterone. For this achievement he won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1939 but, together with another German winner (Gerhard Domagk who won the medical category), was not allowed to receive the prize because of Hitler's anger with the Nobel Committee over the award in 1933 of the peace prize to Karl von Ossietzky, an opponent of fascism who was in a concentration camp.

It was not until 1949 that Butenandt finally went to Stockholm to receive the award, which he had shared with the Swiss chemist Leopold Ružička.

Butenandt was one of the outstanding biochemists of the century over which his long life extended. His isolation of the sex hormones oestrone, androsterone and progesterone were followed in the 1950s by the isolation of the first insect hormone, and the first pheremone, bombykol, the scent used by the female silkworm to attract the male. Though Butenandt had a first-rate team of colleagues and postgraduate students to help him, he was always the initiator as regards what he hoped to discover.

Adolf Friedrich Johann Butenandt studied at the universities of Marburg and Göttingen, gaining his PhD in 1927. He worked with Adolf Windaus, who had pioneered studies into the natural chemicals of the body, and in 1930 became director of the organic chemical laboratories. By then he had achieved his first major success, isolating in the summer of 1929 the hormone oestrone from the urine of pregnant women. An oestrogen, oestrone is one of a group of substances responsible for the development of sexual maturity in women.

In 1931 Butenandt isolated androsterone, a male sex hormone produced by cells in the testicles. He began with only 15 milligrams of the hormone, but by using microanalytical methods was able to deduce a formula. In 1934 Ružička used Butenandt's suggested structure to synthesise androsterone from a closely-related structure, and it was found to have all the properties of the real thing, proving Butenandt's deductions to have been correct.

His greatest success came in 1934, when he was able to isolate a few milligrams of the hormone, progesterone, that prepares the uterus to receive the egg, and maintains the uterus during pregnancy. To isolate even this tiny quantity, Butenandt had to extract the *corpus lutea* — the endocrine gland that produces it — from no less than 50,000 pigs. Progesterone is the most important of the female hormones involved in pregnancy, and in conjunction with oestrogen forms the basis of the contraceptive pill.

In 1936 Butenandt was made director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biochemistry in Berlin, a post he held until 1972. After the war the institute moved first to Tübingen and then to Munich, changing its name to the Max Planck Institute. In 1960 Butenandt was elected president of the Max Planck Society, in succession to the physicist Otto Hahn. He headed the organisation for 12 years and on his retirement became honorary chairman until his death.

During the 1950s Butenandt and colleagues isolated the first insect hormone, ecdysone, which causes the silkworm *Bombyx mori* to pupate. Silkworms were particularly convenient to work with, as they were one of the few insects reared commercially, and therefore a ready source for the large quantity of pupae needed to be extracted from the cocoons. He went on to discover the pheremone bombykol in 1959, a powerful attractant produced by the female which can draw the male from great distances.

Butenandt received many honours and awards, including an honorary degree from Cambridge in 1966. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1968 and of the French Academy of Sciences in 1974.

He married Erica von Ziegner in 1931, and they had two sons and five daughters.

PROFESSOR C. B. WILSON

C. B. Wilson, Professor of Architectural Science and senior vice-principal at the University of Edinburgh, died from a heart attack on January 28 aged 59. He was born in Loughborough on July 12, 1935.

EVERY successful university depends heavily on a small number of gifted academics who can devote their analytical intellects and innovative skills to institutional problems extending way beyond the confines of their departments. Barrie Wilson was a supreme example of such an invaluable individual.

Educated at Liverpool University, where he taught for six years as a lecturer in environmental physics, Christopher Barrie Wilson moved to Edinburgh University in 1967.

Originally a theoretical physicist, he became interested in the relationship between urban climate (especially wind-flows) and building design.

His personal research was highy mathematical, but he accepted that research students trained in architecture (he was responsible for 12 of them at the time of his death) had limited mathematical ability. He supervised them instead in the study of architectural theory and introduced them to the architecture of traditional societies such as China, Japan and the Islamic world. These subjects later began to influence his own research.

His personal interests were very diverse, encompassing music, literature, aspects of philosophy, as well as carpentry (he was preparing frames for a public exhibition of his wife's paintings at the time of his death).

This breadth of talent was reflected in his contributions to the life of the University of Edinburgh. At one time or another he was a guiding influence in activities as diverse as the University Press, the School of Epistemics, the university's corporate initiatives in the environment, its place in Scotland, its relations with the city of Edinburgh and with the surrounding region.

The university's estates and buildings were another abiding interest. Administratively, he served two terms as a very successful Dean of Social Sciences before becoming the longest serving vice-principal in 1987 with responsibility at first for planning and development, and later for the university's future strategy.

He played a key role in the university's recovery from the financial crisis that struck it in 1990. He led a "task force" that began to get to grips with the immediate problem, and later convened the working group whose efforts resulted in the academic restructuring of the university, a vital component of its successful recovery from the crisis.

His achievements owe much to his patience, respect for fellow academics and his total commitment to the ideal of a university.

He is survived by his wife Anna and two daughters.

Royal Air Force College Cranwell

Air Marshal I.D. Macfadyen, Director General of Saudi Air Force Projects, was the Reviewing Officer at the Graduation of 81 officers of No 155 Initial Officer Training Course from the Royal Air Force College Cranwell on February 9.

Graduating officers of no 155 initial officer-training course

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Flying Officers F Graham, N E Hoskins BSc, J M Nichols BA: Pilot Officers S A Allcock BA, J E Britten MA DipM, R J Niven BSc PGCE, S F Webb BA

Engineer Branch
Flight Lieutenants M Bilney BEng, D L Clapham BEng, K Rosbotham BEng, R C Southall BEng, R M Withers BEng: Flying Officers J R E Ankers BEng, J L W Browning BEng, L Collins BEng, B D Doherty BEng, C J Egan BEng, A P Goddard, K Hopwood BEng, P D Lilly BEng, L P Roberts BEng, D J Tozer BEng: Pilot Officers S J Bellamy BEng, D E Will BEng

Supply Branch
Flying Officers P D Collingswood, R A J Nash, F Wiseman BA: Pilot Officers P J Draper BSc, C A Moorecroft BSc, S L Wright BSc

Administrative Branch - Secretarial
Flying Officers A C Allen, M Lumsdon BEng, S D Sharp BSc: Pilot Officers T G Chalkley BSc, S J Roberts: Acting Pilot Officer K Mahon

Administrative Branch - Catering
Pilot Officer B Cartwright

Security Branch - RAF Regiment
Flying Officers I Forster, P B Hateley BA

Security Branch - Provost
Flying Officer R W Irwin

Princess Mary's Royal air Force Nursing Service
Flight Lieutenant D A Hecht RGN RSCN

Foreign and commonwealth students

Kuwait Air Force
Pilot
Acting Pilot Officers A Al Awadhi, T B Razouki

Qatar Emirate Air Force
Pilot
Second Lieutenants M Al Naser, S H S Hadeed, H M J Marzouq Farhan, H H M Al Salem

Royal Brunei Armed Forces
Pilot
Second Lieutenant A H M Hasreen

Hungarian air Force
Fighter Control
Officer Cadet L Banka

Prizewinners of the graduating course
The Sword of Merit: Flying Officer C J Egan BEng
The Hennessy Trophy and Philip Sassoon Memorial Prize: Pilot Officer S J Bellamy BEng
The British Aircraft Corporation Trophy: Flying Officer S Trimble BA
Overseas Students' Prize: Officer Cadet L Banka HAF
Group Captain Williams Memorial Trophy: Pilot Officer B Cartwright
The Sarah Maland Memorial Prize: Second Lieutenant A H M Hasreen RBAF

ON THIS DAY

February 13 1954

Forty years on, "risks apparently attended" to smoking have become firmly and deadly evident. In fact they go back to the last century (On This Day, September 25 1989: Tobacco Diseases 1878)

HEAVY SMOKING AND CANCER
Some Relationship Established

Mr Macleod, the Minister of Health, made an official announcement yesterday that a relationship has been established between smoking and cancer of the lung. He emphasized that uninformed and alarmist conclusions should not be drawn from this information, which was contained in a report presented to him by the Standing Advisory Committee on Cancer and Radiotherapy.

The Minister's statement was made in a written Parliamentary answer to Mr A E Cooper, Conservative MP for Ilford South.

The committee warn young people of the risks apparently attendant on excessive cigarette smoking, but the Minister pointed out that there is so far no firm evidence of the way in which smoking may cause lung cancer, or of the extent to which it does so. In a statement issued later, a group of tobacco companies said that last December they had offered to give £250,000 for research into the causes of the disease and, on the advice of the Minister of Health, had agreed to offer the money to the Medical Research Council.

The answer to Mr Cooper stated that "having considered the report of the panel under the chairmanship of the Government Actuary on the statistical evidence of an association between smoking and cancer of the lung and having received the other evidence available to them, the committee are of opinion that it must be regarded as established that there is a relationship between smoking and cancer of the lung.

"Though there is a strong presumption that the relationship is causal, there is evidence that the relationship is not a simple one, since the evidence in support of the presence in tobacco smoke of a carcinogenic agent causing cancer of the lung is not yet certain: the statistical evidence indicates that it is unlikely that the increase in the incidence of cancer of the lung is due entirely to increases in smoking; and the differences in incidence between urban and rural areas and between different towns suggest that other factors may be operating, such as atmospheric pollution."

The committee, who for three years have been giving close consideration to the matter, state: "Although no immediate dramatic fall in death rates could be expected if smoking ceased, since the development of lung cancer may be the result of factors operating over many years, and although no reliable quantitative estimates can be made of the effect of smoking on the incidence of cancer of the lung, it is desirable that young people should be warned of the risks apparently attendant on excessive smoking. It would appear that the risk increases with the amount smoked, particularly of cigarettes."

At yesterday's Press conference it was pointed out that between 1911 and 1919 deaths from cancer of the lung numbered about 250 a year, whereas by 1951 the number had risen to 11,166 males and 2,081 females. The figures also showed that the highest mortality rate from lung cancer in men occurred between 65 and 74, and in women from the age of 75.

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY FEBRUARY 13 1995

NEWS

Major isolates protest minister

■ John Major moved swiftly to prevent further Tory divisions over Europe by dismissing a minister's resignation claim that he was failing to tackle a potential immigration crisis.

The Prime Minister and senior Cabinet colleagues attempted to isolate Charles Wardle, who resigned as industry minister at the weekend and issued a warning that Britain's "quality of life is jeopardised" by European immigration laws ... **Pages 1, 2, 4**

Protest mars Dresden ceremony

■ Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and foreign dignataries watched in disbelief as ten young left-wing demonstrators in Dresden raced up to the altar during a service to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the British and American bombing raids and unfurled a protest banner. They said that the event was insulting to Jews .... **Pages 1, 8**

School accused

The sudden closure of a leading girls' public school in Sussex is to be reported to the Charity Commission amid allegations by angry parents of mismanagement by the educational trust which owns it .... **Page 1**

Cost of devolution

Labour's devolution plans came under attack from Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, who said that a parliament could cost Scots an extra 19p income tax .... **Page 2**

Baby goes home

Telephone calls to the police from two women ended 23 hours of anguish for the parents of abducted baby Lydia Owens, who left hospital with her parents. **Page 3**

Night on mountain

A hill walker who went missing in Glencoe on Saturday in appalling weather conditions was forced to spend a second night out in the open .... **Page 3**

Valentine business

The boom in the introduction agency business over the past 15 years means there are now around 90,000 clients compared with 50,000 in 1980 .... **Page 4**

Legal loophole

Powers brought in last week to make parents ensure their young offenders comply with community sentences are likely to be widely flouted because of a legal loophole .... **Page 6**

Church leadership

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has fiercely rebutted allegations by the Archdeacon of York, the Ven George Austin, that the church had "flaccid moral leadership" .... **Page 7**

Blowing cold

Britain's brass band tradition is under threat from education cuts. The flow of young players has dwindled to a trickle .... **Page 9**

Truce breaks down

Clashes along Bosnian frontlines, which have been peaceful since the current six-week-old truce took hold, are threatening to wreck the ceasefire .... **Page 10**

Rebels on run

Three days after the Mexican Government launched a military offensive to crush a 13-month-old peasant rebellion in Chiapas, the noose appears to be tightening on the retreating rebels .... **Page 11**

Mrs Mandela on brink

The political career of Winnie Mandela was again teetering on the brink despite efforts by her husband to resolve a crisis over her role in the powerful ANC Women's League............ **Page 12**

Peacemaker Clinton

President Clinton stepped into the Middle East peace process with an attempt to "kick-start" deadlocked negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation .... **Page 13**

Follett finds trouble in paradise

■ The author and Labour Party supporter Ken Follett, who is hoping to build a sunshine hideaway in one of the world's most exclusive islands, has encountered trouble in paradise. Along with Lord Sainsbury and a sprinkling of fellow millionaires, Mr Follett is suing the developers of the 300-acre Jumby Bay Club, a resort off the Antiguan coast .... **Page 1**

AP

An auction of artwork from Disney's *The Lion King* raised almost $2 million (£1.3 million), a record for animation art. The sale at Sotheby's in New York attracted a range of bidders, from seasoned collectors to parents with young *Lion King* fans in tow

BUSINESS

Power struggle: Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, will decide this week the fate of Northern Electric which is currently being threatened with a £1.2 billion takeover by Trafalgar House .... **Page 44**

Loyalty plea: Directors of SG Warburg, the City investment bank, met to work out how it can prevent key staff from leaving to join its rivals. They also discussed the splitting of the roles of chairman and chief executive........... **Page 44**

Fit at the top: Top executives earning high salaries are healthier than middle managers. The higher the pay, the lower the risk of death and disease, says research into health and mortality of 10,000 civil servants .... **Page 41**

ARTS

Cards on the table: On the evidence of *Dealer's Choice*, now on at the National Theatre, Patrick Marber is a sharp, witty writer with something still to learn about the craft of playmaking .... **Page 15**

Mountain climbing: Glaswegian pop group Del Amitri had to sing for their haggis in their most unlikely gig: at the Snow Goose, Britain's highest restaurant..... **Page 15**

Saved by the singers: The production may be creaky but the Royal Opera's revival of *La Bohème* is still notable for some fine performances .... **Page 14**

Wild about Wilde: Everyone, it seems, wants to make a film about Oscar Wilde, from David Hare and Kenneth Branagh to Nicholas Hytner and Alan Bennett .... **Page 15**

FEATURES

Lasting fusion: A marriage of chemistry and astronomy has discovered the building blocks of life in outer space .... **Page 16**

Judgment day: "I'm sorry, Dawn French, but I am fed up with being Mistress Blobby. I don't want to be *plumpcious anymore*" writes Ginny Dougary .... **Page 17**

Libby Purves: I love the BBC very much, and have felt part of it for two decades. I beg it to tread with care. Too much of modern life is already designed by those who "target" customers .... **Page 17**

EDUCATION

Excellent lesson: What makes an effective school? If it is one that gets the best out of its pupils how can that be measured?............ **Page 37**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ NYPD BLUES
Matthew Bond on the last case of New York's finest, Detective John Kelly

■ CONCERTS FOR 20P
How to take a friend to a concert for the price of *The Times*

SPORT

Football: Blackburn Rovers returned to the top of the Premiership with a 3-1 home win over Sheffield Wednesday, who had their goalkeeper, Kevin Pressman, sent off in *the 44th minute* .... **Page 23**

Golf: Jarmo Sandelin, of Sweden, won the Canaries Island Open at *Gran Canaria with* a six-under-par total of 282, beating Severiano Ballesteros and Paul Eales by one shot .... **Page 24**

Rugby League: Leeds, last season's losing finalists, beat Bradford 31-14 in the fourth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup match........ **Page 32**

Athletics: Great Britain's women sprinters had some splendid results in the indoor match against France .... **Page 32**

Cycling: The showdown between Chris Boardman, of Britain, and Tony Romiger, of Switzerland, in Manchester, helped sell cycling to the British public .... **Page 25**

Swimming: The two-day World Cup action at Sheffield produced a torrent of records — four world, two European, two Commonwealth and five British...... **Page 32**

Rugby Union: Northampton are finding it tough at the foot of the Courage Championship while the league leaders, Bath, dropped a point in a rare slip-up .... **Page 33**

Racing: Fiftysevenchannels is fancied to win the first qualifier in *The Times* Rising Stars Series, at Hereford today .... **Page 31**

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Teenage love and racial tension in Bradford, *Blood and Peaches* (BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss revels in the glorious photography and fine acting of BBC1's *The Buccaneers* ..... **Page 43**

OPINION

Fire from the sky

Today the Duke of Kent will give the citizens of Dresden "a gift from the British people". Fifty years after the city's destruction, it is possible to look with different eyes upon this painful event. It is right that this change of perspective should be marked with a gift .... **Page 19**

No resigning matter

Charles Wardle's resignation as junior trade minister is as mystifying as it is damaging. The pretext is wholly bogus: there is no quarrel over immigration .... **Page 19**

Hospital safety

Commonsense vigilance and staff training could well raise hospital security .... **Page 19**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Studying Shakespeare, my daughter sees the Moor as a very stupid man, if mildly interesting as an example of trans-ethnic jealousy — a sort of O.J. Othello......... **Page 18**

PETER RIDDELL

Thatcher's children have tilted the party's views on Europe in her direction .... **Page 18**

MATTHEW PARRIS

Profiting from scarcity can not be reconciled with Christianity but it is the essence of capitalism .... **Page 18**

OBITUARIES

John Halas, film animator; **Adolf Butenandt**, chemist and Nobel prize winner; **Art Taylor**, jazz drummer .... **Page 21**

LETTERS

War widows' pensions; single European currency........... **Page 19**

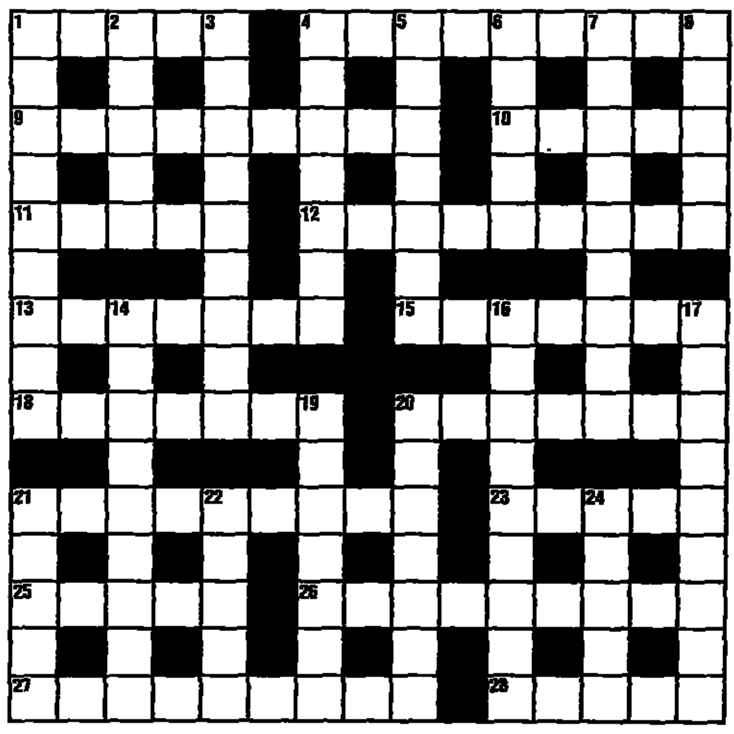
THE PAPERS

The cease-fire installed at the end of the year in the former Yugoslavia is taking hold uncertainly in some quarters, little in others, but may well disintegrate at the end of the winter because it was not accompanied by effective new plans for peace —*Washington Post*

LOTTERY NUMBERS

15, 18, 29, 35, 38, 48. Bonus: 5.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,777



ACROSS

1 Did some topping work! (5).
4 A way cross characters may get the bird (9).
9 Be informed about ship coming back (9).
10 Retired medico's exercise course (5).
11 Behind a measure taken by the queen (5).
12 Dress in a suit to find a job (9).
13 Speaking on retaining proportion (7).
15 Standing up to deliver a tirade about a politician (7).
18 A spring's swarms (7).
20 Bearing with a madman responsible for smash (7).
21 A game of no great importance (9).
23 Fashions do hit the provider of clothing in India (5).
25 An author familiar with Speedwriting? (5).
26 Retired state pub boss is getting on (9).
27 Like a star, gratified to receive mention (9).
28 Expenditure has got a painter into a row (5).

DOWN

1 Rating has scrap over a port (9).
2 A bit of duplicity is permissible (5).
3 The flight one's tried to switch (9).
4 Blush, being about to frame a boy (7).
5 Protect a woman officer with little hesitation (7).
6 Ring through before a musical entertainment (5).
7 Belligerent individual taking dope to sicken a social worker (9).
8 It's the country for you old-fashioned fellows! (5).
14 Set against amalgamating, so leading (9).
16 Imply the German newspaperman twisted (9).
17 Making a change in spirit or giving up? (7,2).
19 In a way strange and striking (7).
20 Cultivated area children litter (7).
21 A degree taken with little relative support (5).
22 Sum for a child — a pupil (5).
24 The board will answer by letter (5).

The Times Crossword Championship, 1995: as more competitors have qualified for the London A and B finals than can be accommodated, they will be required to attempt an Eliminator puzzle to be published on Thursday, February 23.

KNOCKANDO

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,776 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky and a fine leather credit card wallet.

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: Minehead, Somerset, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 2C (36F); highest rainfall: Spadeadam Waste, Cumbria, 0.98in; highest sunshine: Cornwall, Penzance, 1.0hr.

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will start off generally cloudy, and although the east will be bright for a time, showers or longer spells of rain will work across from the west. It will be mild, though rather breezy in the west. Eastern Scotland will be dry and bright for much of the day but showers or longer periods of rain in the west, and over Northern Ireland, will spread across later. Overall, it will be less windy than recently with similar, relatively mild temperatures.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles**: bright morning, showery rain later. Wind south, light or moderate veering southwest later. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England**: rain by midday, turning showery later. Wind south veering west mainly moderate or fresh. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England, Borders, SW Scotland**: rain or showers for a time. Wind mainly south light or moderate veering southwest. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney**: bright start, rain or showers later. Wind southwest fresh becoming southeast light. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland**: showers or longer periods of rain. Wind south or southwest moderate or fresh. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Shetland**: showers gradually dying out. Wind southwest strong becoming southeast moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Outlook**: unsettled, rather windy at times but remaining mild.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.6	0.22	9	48	c
Anglesey	-	0.20	10	50	r
Aspatria	-	0.23	9	48	r
Aviemore	0.6	0.31	7	45	r
Belfast	0.6	0.03	9	48	c
Birmingham	5.5	0.02	11	52	b
Bognor R	5.1	0.02	11	52	b
Bournem'th	4.3	0.10	12	54	s
Bristol	3.0	0.01	13	55	b
Buxton	3.5	0.20	9	48	b
Cardiff	1.1	0.03	11	52	c
Clacton	4.1	0.02	10	50	b
Cleethorpes	X				
Cromer	4.1	0.06	11	52	b
Doncaster	3.5	0.02	12	54	b
Eastbourne	5.3	0.03	11	52	b
Edinburgh	-	0.08	9	48	r
Eskdalemuir	-	0.57	7	45	r
Exmouth	1.5	0.03	11	52	c
Falmouth	X	0.04	12	54	s
Fishguard	1.5	0.08	10	50	c
Folkestone	5.3	0.08	11	52	b
Glasgow	-	0.20	10	50	r
Guernsey	5.7	-	15	59	s
Hastings	5.8	0.03	11	52	b
Hayling I.	3.5	0.02	11	52	b
Herne Bay	5.1	0.08	12	54	b
Hove	4.8	-	11	52	b
Hunstanton	3.9	0.05	11	52	b
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	-	0.02	10	50	r
Jersey	5.5	0.01	12	54	b
Kinloss	2.3	0.18	9	48	r
Leeds	6.2	0.03	12	54	s
Lerwick	2.6	0.61	4	39	r
Leuchars	1.1	0.04	10	50	r
Littlehmptn	4.8	0.03	11	52	b
Liverpool	0.3	0.24	11	52	c
London	2.3	0.01	12	54	b
Lowestoft	5.6	0.03	11	52	b
Manchester	3.0	0.09	12	54	b
Margate	X	0.03	12	54	b
Minehead	4.7	0.05	13	55	b
Morecambe	-	0.56	10	50	r
Newcastle	3.8	-	11	52	s
Newquay	X				
Norwich	6.1	0.06	11	52	s
Nottingham	5.1	0.02	11	52	b
Oxford	2.7	-	12	54	b
Penzance	5.9	-	13	55	s
Plymouth	3.5	-	11	52	b
Poole	2.4	0.03	13	55	b
Prestatyn	X	0.03	12	54	c
Ross-o-wye	4.1	0.02	12	54	b
Ryde	X				
Salcombe	X				
Sandown	5.0	0.01	12	54	s
Saunton Snd	6.2	0.04	12	54	s
Scarboro'	3.2	0.05	11	52	s
Scilly Isles	6.5	0.01	12	54	s
Shanklin	4.0	0.01	11	52	b
Shrewsbury	2.2	0.03	11	52	b
Skegness	4.3	-	12	54	b
Southend	1.0	0.02	11	52	c
Southport	1.2	0.12	11	52	b
Southsea	3.5	0.02	11	52	s
Stornoway	1.2	0.39	8	46	r
Swanage	3.0	0.01	11	52	b
Teignmouth	1.8	0.02	12	54	b
Tenby	3.9	-	11	52	b
Tiree	2.3	0.12	8	46	r
Torquay	1.9	0.02	13	55	b
Tynemouth	4.0	-	11	52	s
Ventnor	4.9	0.01	11	52	b
Weymouth	4.2	0.01	12	54	b

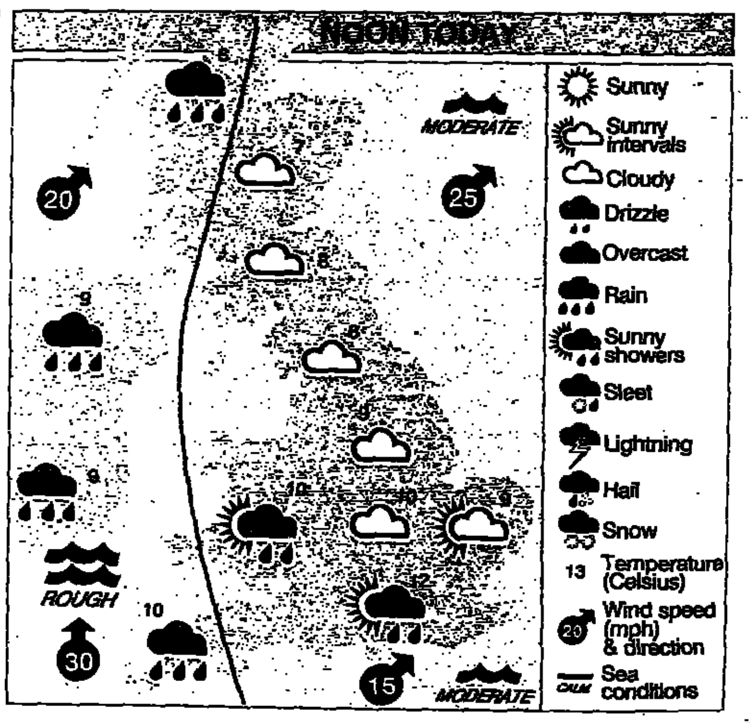
These are Saturday's figures

ABROAD

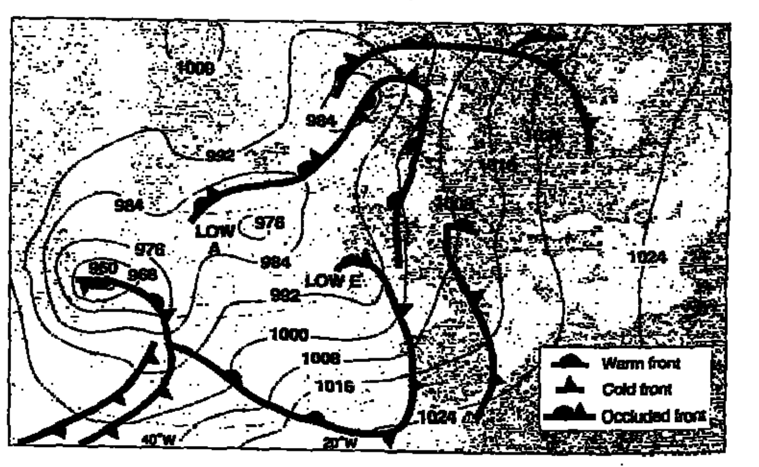
	C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	s
Akrotiri	18	64	s
Alex'dria	19	66	f
Algiers	19	66	s
Amst'dm	9	48	s
Athens	17	63	s
Bahrain	19	66	f
Bangkok	32	90	t
Barbados	29	84	s
Barcelona	15	59	f
Beirut	17	63	s
Belgrade	17	63	s
Berlin	9	48	f
Bermuda	21	70	c
Biarritz	15	59	c
Borde'x	13	55	f
Brussels	11	52	s
Budapst	15	59	f
B Aires	26	79	r
Cairo	21	70	s
Cape Tn	26	79	s
Chicago	-16	3	s
Ch'church	18	65	-
Cologne	11	52	f
C'phagn	6	43	c
Corfu	16	61	s
Dublin	10	50	r
Dubrovnik	15	59	s
Faro	18	64	c
Florence	13	55	f
Frankfurt	11	52	s
Funchal	18	64	f
Geneva	10	50	c
Gibraltar	18	64	s
Helsinki	-3	27	c
Hong K	22	72	s
Innsbrck	8	46	f
Istanbul	9	48	fg
Jeddah	27	81	s
Jo'burg	27	81	f
Karachi	29	84	s
L Palmas	19	66	s
Le Touquet	11	52	f
Lisbon	16	61	c
Locarno	9	48	c
L Angels	16	61	c
Luxembg	9	48	f
Luxor	25	77	s
Madrid	8	46	d
Majorca	16	61	s
Malaga	19	66	f
Malta	17	63	f
Melb'rne	31	88	s
Miami	27	81	c
Milan	8	46	f
Montreal	-5	23	s
Moscow	-2	28	s
Munich	9	48	r
Nairobi	25	77	f
Naples	17	63	s
N Delhi	22	72	s
N York	7	45	s
Nice	12	54	c
Oslo	-1	30	sn
Paris	12	54	s
Peking	8	46	s
Perth	28	82	s
Prague	9	48	f
Reykjavik	2	36	f
Rhodes	18	64	s
Rio de J	25	77	f
Riyadh	18	64	s
Rome	14	57	f
Salzburg	8	46	c
S F'risco	11	52	c
Santiago	30	86	s
S Paulo	25	77	c
Seoul	6	43	c
Sing'por	31	88	t
St'kholm	-1	30	sn
Strasb'rg	14	57	f
Sydney	26	79	f
Tangier	17	63	f
Tel Aviv	21	70	s
Tenerife	20	68	s
Tokyo	11	52	s
Toronto	-10	14	c
Tunis	18	64	c
Valencia	20	68	f
Vanc'ver	5	41	f
Venice	8	46	f
Vienna	6	43	c
Warsaw	6	43	r
Wash'ton	9	48	f
Wel'ngton	20	68	s
Zurich	11	52	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low E will move northeastwards and start to fill. Low A will edge slowly eastwards and fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	0:01	6.07	0:30	6.22	Leith	1:04	4.80	1:27	5.03
Aberdeen	0:01	3.87	0:14	4.05	Liverpool	9:59	8.48	10:20	8.51
Avonmouth	5:41	11.77	6:08	11.93	Lowestoft	8:18	2.29	8:24	2.42
Belfast	9:39	3.24	10:08	3.04	Margate	10:45	4.22	10.57	4.41
Cardiff	5:19	10.39	5:45	10.42	Milford Haven	4:51	6.08	5:13	6.19
Devonport	4.10	4.97	4:37	4.91	Newquay	3:40	5.77	3:59	5.86
Dover	9:47	5.86	10:05	6.09	Oban	4:27	3.45	4:59	3.60
Dublin	10:30	3.78	10:46	3.62	Penzance	3:24	4.86	3:43	4.88
Falmouth	3:28	4.55	3.51	4.43	Portland	5:06	1.87	5:41	1.61
Glasgow	11:18	4.27	—	—	Portsmouth	9:54	4.29	10:27	4.40
Harwich	10:33	3.50	10:51	3.59	Shoreham	9:41	5.55	10:10	5.72
Holyhead	9:05	5.10	9:25	5.01	Southampton	9:32	4.21	10:00	4.24
Hull	4:58	6.35	5:13	6.80	Swansea	5:01	8.39	5:26	8.53
Ilfracombe	4:33	7.99	4:57	8.21	Tees	2:15	4.53	2:34	4.76
King's Lynn	4:58	5.51	5:14	5.67	Wlton-on-Nze	10:22	3.58	10:35	3.74

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Full moon Feb 15

Sun rises: 7.19 am
Sun sets: 7.11 pm
Moon sets 6.45 am
Moon rises 3.24 pm

London 5.11 pm to 7.17 am
Bristol 5.21 pm to 7.27 am
Edinburgh 5.11 pm to 7.41 am
Manchester 5.15 pm to 7.31 am
Penzance 5.36 pm to 7.36 am

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TIMES SPORT

Shearer meets Berg's cross to score Blackburn Rovers' third goal in their FA Carling Premiership defeat of Sheffield Wednesday at Ewood Park yesterday. Photograph: Tony Marshall

Sheffield Wednesday overwhelmed after dismissal of Pressman

Rovers return in top gear

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By Peter Ball

MANCHESTER United's hold on the leadership of the FA Carling Premiership lasted little more than 24 hours. Blackburn Rovers swept aside Sheffield Wednesday as the rain poured down at Ewood Park yesterday to reclaim the position they have held for most of the season.

"It will take a great team to keep us away from the title now," Steve Bruce, the Manchester United captain, claimed after his side's victory over Manchester City on Saturday had taken them to the top for the first time since November. Blackburn may not be a great team, at least not yet, but they are a powerful, remorselessly competitive one.

It will take a better side than Sheffield Wednesday to interrupt their progress. Yesterday, goals from Sherwood, Atkins and, inevitably, Shearer, his 28th of the season, took them two points clear of United, with a significantly superior goal difference to boot.

Even without four regulars because of injury and suspension, they were far too strong for Wednesday even before the Yorkshiremen were reduced to ten men by the dismissal of Pressman on the stroke of the interval for deliberate handball. Even with 11-men, Wednesday looked as if they were still feeling sorry for themselves after their untimely Cup exit against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Wednesday. By the second half, as the pitch began to glisten in the rain, they looked a sorry, bedraggled lot.

By contrast, Blackburn's hunger was unmissable. Shearer and Sutton tore Wednesday's defence to ribbons with their eager running, while behind them Sherwood celebrated his England call-up in style, his spectacular goal the highlight of a vibrant display as Blackburn ran riot in midfield, not even the absence of Ripley and Wilcox undermining their control.

The only surprise was that it took Blackburn so long to turn their authority into goals. They might easily have been three ahead in the first 15 minutes as Wednesday's defensive shortcomings were exposed.

After only three minutes Pearce missed Mimms's long kick, but Sutton shot weakly after Shearer had sent him in. Another four minutes and Sherwood's run and Berg's pass combined to free the Rovers captain, but Sherwood was forced wide and when he laid the ball on for Sutton, it was deflected.

To prove that there is more to Rovers than their front pair, Wright then released Atkins to cut in on the beleaguered Pressman, but with glory beckoning, the midfield player looked for his striker and Sutton had run offside. Again Wednesday had survived, but less through their own efforts than a temporary lack of ruthlessness on Blackburn's part. Their defence was again at sixes and sevens when Shearer sent Atkins to the byline. Sutton met the cross with a point-blank header but Pressman proved equal to the demands with a breathtaking save.

Wednesday's escape this time lasted less than a minute. The corner that followed was played to Sherwood just outside the penalty area and he rifled the ball beyond Pressman and in off the post.

Blackburn should quickly have been two up as Shearer evaded the offside trap to run onto Wright's pass. For once, however, the deadliest marksman in English football failed to hit the target, shooting against Pressman's legs as the goalkeeper came out.

The first half-hour had been one way traffic but Wednesday ended it by levelling. Sinton's cross from the left glanced off Hendry, Sheridan met it with one of his rare meaningful contributions and poked it in to Waddle, standing virtually on the penalty spot. Scoring from penalties is not Waddle's forte, as he reminded everyone on Wednesday, but in open play the white blob holds no terrors for him and he hit the ball past Mimms.

Wednesday were level for two minutes. Once again their defence was totally exposed at a corner. Warhurst hit the right-hand post, the ball screwed beyond the other post and was returned by Shearer. At least two Wednesday defenders could have cleared but the ball went off Petrescu's heel and Atkins tucked it back into the net.

This time Blackburn were not to be caught. Any hope Wednesday had of recovering was ended when Pressman tackled Sutton outside the area but then handled as Warhurst hit the loose ball towards the empty net.

Woods came on and announced his arrival with a fine save from Shearer's free kick, but the former England goalkeeper was helpless when Shearer at last got his goal just after the hour, heading Berg's cross low into the corner.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2) R Mimms — H Berg, I Pearce, C Hendry, A Wright — R Slater, M Atkins, T Sherwood, P Warhurst — A Shearer, C Sutton.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-1-1) K Pressman — P Atherton, A Pearce, D Walker, I Nolan — D Petrescu (sub: M Willems, 50min), J Sheridan (sub. G Whittingham, 68) C Bart-Williams, A Sinton (sub: C Woods, 44) — C Waddle — M Bright.

Referee: P Jones.

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Cantona gets Millichip's sympathy

By Dominic Kennedy and Peter Ball

SIR Bert Millichip, chairman of the Football Association, said yesterday he had great sympathy with Eric Cantona and described his alleged drop-kick on an Independent Television News reporter as "a totally un-football related matter".

Cantona, 28, is alleged to have injured Terry Lloyd, 42, at a beach on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, using a flying kick reminiscent of his attack on the Crystal Palace supporter, Matthew Simmons.

"I had great sympathy for him that people were chasing him all over the world. They have followed him around to take pictures of him," Sir Bert said. He added that he had "sympathy for people who are looking for a bit of peace".

Sir Bert, 80, was speaking from his home in Birmingham while, across the Atlantic, Lloyd was nursing a suspected broken rib.

The French forward already faces disciplinary action by the FA for misconduct and bringing the game into disrepute because of his violence towards Mr Simmons, who taunted him for being sent off against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on January 25. The footballer will appear before the FA on February 24.

David Davies, the FA spokesman, said: "We are in touch with Manchester United, but there is nothing we can say until we have established what happened."

"All I know is what I heard on ITN," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "Until we get a report, or talk to Eric when he returns later this week, there's nothing we can say about it."

Lloyd yesterday sought medical attention for his bruised torso but the police on Guadeloupe said they had received no complaint of assault. "As far as we know, it was just a clash of words," a policeman from Sainte-Anne told Reuters. "The reporter did not lodge a complaint and did not speak to us about blows."

The ITN Editor-in-Chief, Stewart Purvis, is to be asked why Lloyd came to be "tormenting" Cantona on Guadaloupe in the first place.

Terry Lewis, Labour MP for the Worsley constituency of Manchester, said that the wrong questions were being asked and he was writing to Purvis.

"The question is not what Cantona did. The first question which has to be asked is: 'What is ITN doing half the way round the world tormenting a guy who has gone away for a week or ten days for peace and quiet and then, without permission, taking pictures of his pregnant wife on a beach?' "

Doubts over Graham, page 27

Lineker takes chance to be focus of attention

MATTHEW BOND

◆

TV ACTION REPLAY

There is something rather strange about Gary Lineker. Remember what happened when he went off to Japan: slowly, steadily and ever so gently, time finally caught up with him. The temples acquired a generous fleck of grey, the lines around the eyes became rather more than a by-product of that familiar smile.

But now the whole ageing process has gone into reverse. Four weeks into his new job as the BBC's leading soccer pundit and Lineker is looking younger by the game. Small wonder, then, that at the end of *Football Focus's* recent tribute to Sir Stanley Matthews, Ray Stubbs simply turned to Lineker and asked, "How old are you?" The point was nicely made — Lineker is 34, some 16 years younger than Matthews was when he reluctantly called it a day. If he carries on getting younger at the present rate, the next phone call won't be from an irate George Graham but from his old mentor, Terry Venables: "Just wondered whether you fancied a game on Wednesday, Gary?"

But it's not just Lineker's looks that are familiar. So, too, is the way he deals with (I was going to say "tackle", but somehow the word and Lineker still do not go together) his new job. Up pops a controversy — bungs, Cantona, referees, whatever — and there is Lineker to tap it home coolly. From goal-hanging to scandal-hanging, the transition has been characteristically effortless.

Like scoring goals, punditry is largely a matter of timing and, as ever, Lineker's has been impeccable — almost uncannily so, in fact. In the four weeks since he slid those famous thighs under the desk at *Football Focus*, the game has seen enough off-the-ball incident to keep Saint and Greavsie in pious indignation for years. But, thankfully, that is not Lineker's style. Instead he tackles (there, I've said it) the game's mounting problems with intelligence, restraint and a nice line in humour. His day-one crack about hoping that "George Graham's defence was better than Arsenal's" may have got him into trouble (it also got him noticed) but the gentle jibe at Jack Charlton on Saturday was spot-on: "If Jack ever caught one of those Scottish salmon, he'd probably claim it was of Irish descent."

That said, *Football Focus* on Saturday gave perhaps the strongest indication that reports that the crisp-pinching Lineker had dumped the Mr Nice Guy tag were premature. Instead, he was reason personified. The mid-week crowd trouble at Chelsea was sensibly downplayed, with Lineker going out of his way to praise both police and club. In fact, the nearest he got to controversy was his unsympathetic response to Chris Waddle's FA Cup penalty miss: "He's a big boy now, he'll get over it."

But what Lineker's appearances on *Football Focus* and *Match of the Day* reveal is how his performance very much depends on who is setting things up. With Des Lynam, the chemistry is hopeless — they are too similar. If Lynam was a footballer, he would be a tap-in merchant — a quick shimmy in the six-yard box and then amble off to twinkle a roguish smile at the girls in the stands. On *Match of the Day*, Lynam does not so much set Lineker up as bury it himself, with "questions" such as, "You were pretty impressed with Ryan Giggs" and "Cole seems like he's been playing with them for months". All Lineker can do is pick the topic out of the back of the net and bury it again. Stimulating debate it is not.

By contrast, Ray Stubbs (who, until a croaky Steve Rider took over on Saturday, has nurse-maided Lineker through *Football Focus*) brings out the best in his man, with a regular supply of well-flighted talking-points, conspicuous for the lack of his own opinions. His low-key approach is a model for any professional journalist hoping to work a neat one-two with the newly retired sportsman. You supply them and let the master knock 'em home.

Favourite surrenders six-shot lead

Ballesteros bows to Sandelin as Swede holds nerve

From Mel Webb in Las Palmas

EVER since the Canary Islands Open started at Maspalomas on Thursday, Severiano Ballesteros had led the tournament almost as of right. Until yesterday, that is, when a relatively unknown young Swedish golfer strode boldly into the court of King Seve and knocked his crown askew.

The tournament was won by Jarmo Sandelin who, playing in only the eighth PGA European Tour event of a seven-year professional career, had a closing round of 70 for a total of 282, six under par, with Ballesteros and Paul Eales sharing second place one shot behind. It was a remarkable display by Sandelin, 27, who trailed Ballesteros by six shots after five holes of the final round.

Sandelin was born of Finnish parents in a small town two miles from the Soviet border, but moved to Sweden in 1974 and later took out Swedish nationality. He cut his golfing teeth on pitch and putt courses, where he refined the short game that is today one of his strengths.

It was with a short iron that he played the stroke that was to be the death-knell of Ballesteros's hopes. It came on the 15th, which was as good a hole for him as it was calamitous for Ballesteros. Sandelin's second shot, hit with his 65-degree wedge — one of four he carries — drew up fractionally short of the green.

Outwardly calm but with nerves as taut as the strings in a tennis racket, he bumped and rolled it in with a nine-iron from 60 feet for a birdie three, and indulged himself in a jubilant high-five with Jerry, his 31-year-old brother and caddie. He did not know it at the time, but he had the tournament won.

Ballesteros, meanwhile, cast his drive right into one of the many sandy wastes that litter the Maspalomas course, and had to come out backwards from beneath a clump of large bushes. He hit the green with his third, but he took two putts from 20 feet for a bogey five to lose the lead for the first time in the tournament.

The hole thus yielded a two-stroke swing in Sandelin's favour, and the only other threat he had to a momentous victory came on the par-five home hole. After both had played two, Sandelin was short of the green while Ballesteros was in a greenside bunker. At that moment, Ballesteros was probably in better shape, wizard that he is from close range.

For once, Sandelin played a loose chip and left himself a horrible 12-foot downgrain putt with a big left-to-right swing. Ballesteros, meanwhile, came out of the bunker and hit the green against the pronounced grain, and pulled up six feet short.

Sandelin missed with his birdie attempt, and Ballesteros had the chance to send the tournament into a play-off. The gallery hushed; they did not want it to finish. But finish it did when Ballesteros's putt held its line until the last foot before escaping the hole by two inches to the left.

Ballesteros was obviously disappointed, but the compelling quality of his golf in the first two days contrasted dramatically with a lacklustre performance over the weekend, when he left his early accuracy off the tee behind in the locker-room.

Sandelin could have had no thought of winning after making a dreadful start to the final round, dropping three shots in the first four holes. He had a double-bogey six on the 2nd and a bogey on the fourth, which Ballesteros birdied to extend his lead to six shots. At that moment, it seemed that Ballesteros had the winner's cheque for £40,719 in his pocket.

It was not to be. Sandelin birdied the 6th, 7th and the short 8th, at the last of which Ballesteros dropped a shot for the fourth time in the tournament and saw his lead whittled away to two shots in the space of three holes. Sandelin played the last nine holes in two under par while Ballesteros, round in 73, was one over on the back nine.

"It's an unbelievable feeling," Sandelin said. "It's only my fourth tournament since I got my card, and I've beaten my hero." The said hero, meanwhile, was outside signing autographs for a gang of small boys. When Sandelin strolled past, silverware in hand, few gave him a second glance. It takes more than one minor coup for a king such as he to give up his crown.

FINAL SCORES

(GB & Ire unless stated): 282: J Sandelin (Swe) 74, 72, 66, 70. 283: P Eales 68, 72, 72, 71; S Ballesteros (Sp) 68, 69, 73, 73. 284: A Forsbrand (Swe) 72, 69, 72, 71. 285: S Struver (Ger) 70, 72, 73, 70; D Clarke 72, 69, 71, 73; G Emerson 69, 72, 71, 73. 287: P Quirici (Switz) 76, 70, 73, 68. 288: J McHenry 74, 72, 74, 68; D Cooper 74, 69, 75, 70; G Brand Jr 71, 72, 74, 71. P Linhart (Sp) 76, 68, 73, 71; P Curry 71, 74, 70, 73; G Orr 68, 75, 71, 74. 289: P Price 73, 69, 73, 74. 290: R Burns 73, 72, 74, 71; S Tinning (Den) 72, 72, 74, 72; J Spence 69, 75, 74, 72, B Marchbank 76, 68, 74, 72; S Bottomley 72, 73, 73, 72; P Lawrie 72, 77, 68, 73; D Smyth 75, 69, 72, 74; P Simpson 70, 75, 69, 76.

Ballesteros was unable to recover after dropping two shots on the 15th yesterday

Mason makes vital save for England

By Sydney Friskin

ENGLAND settled for fifth place at the Indira Gandhi hockey tournament in Delhi yesterday, with a 5-3 victory over Malaysia on penalty strokes after the scores were tied at 2-2.

Overall, this was an encouraging position for a young England team that had played together for the first time and had lost only to Kazakhstan in its opening match.

By half-time the score was 1-1, Crutchley having levelled the score from a penalty stroke in the fifteenth minute after Noor Saiful Zaini had put Malaysia ahead five minutes earlier. Noor regained the lead for Malaysia from a short corner in the 45th minute but ten minutes before time Giles squared the match at 2-2.

In the penalty shoot-out, Wyatt, Giles, Lee, Conway and Crutchley were successful for England, while Mason made the vital save off Noor.

South Korea won the tournament, beating India 3-1 in the final, while Australia came third, beating Kazakhstan, also 3-1.

In England, Formby became the only non-league side to survive the fifth round of the Hockey Association Cup yesterday by beating Firebrands 5-3 in a penalty shoot-out after the teams were locked 2-2 at full time and 33-3 after extra time.

More thrills were provided at Exeter School, where ISCA won 7-4 after being forced into extra time by Spencer, who were leading 2-1 at half-time. At the end of normal time the score was 3-3, before ISCA pushed up their workrate.

Hampstead and Westminster brought a fading game to life at Paddington by scoring twice early in the second half, eventually to lose 3-2 to Richmond.

In the one National League match played yesterday, St Albans beat Crostyx 3-2 to share the leadership of the second division with Doncaster, Barford Tigers and Brooklands. Halliday scored twice for St Albans.

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Rendle and Bell still going strong

John Goodbody watches two experienced

British fighters win bronze medals in Paris

MORE than a decade spent at the top of British women's judo is not necessarily a passport to fame and fortune. Sharon Rendle and Diane Bell may have won Olympic gold medals in 1988, but few people have heard of them because theirs was only a demonstration sport in Seoul.

That could all change now that women's judo has attained full Olympic status and, at the Tournoi de Paris over the weekend, the pair continued their build-up towards Atlanta next year by both finishing third.

Bell, 31, finished first in the tournament in 1981 and Rendle, 28, has been competing internationally since 1983. The pair train together and regularly spend a fortnight working at Bell's house in Crawcrook, Tyne and Wear. Then, after a week's break for individual preparation, Bell travels to Rendle's home in Grimsby for another two weeks' training.

They practise throws, do weight-training, run together and discuss strategy. Rendle says: "We complement each other. The arrangement suits; now we are getting older, we do less quantity but more quality work.

"I have a bee in the bonnet about the Olympics. I'm going to win and then live happily ever after. I owe it to everyone who has helped."

But first she must negotiate the European championships in Birmingham, in May, when she has to earn the featherweight selection ahead of Debbie Allan, who was third last year but yesterday, fighting on the adjoining mat, was clearly beaten for the other bronze medal.

Yesterday, Rendle held down Miria Campiotti, of Italy, who had earlier defeated Allan on a decision. Rendle was fuming afterwards for not getting further in the competition after being frustrated by the obstructive gripping of Almudena Muñoz, of Spain.

Bell's bronze medal in the lightweights on Saturday was the result of her experienced persistence and the addition of new techniques to her established repertoire. She said: "It is important to get fresh moves as you get older. Otherwise people get used to your style."

Although she had been dumped by Zulueta Beltrán, of Cuba, Bell won her repechage bout against Mag Kazenove, of France.

Ryan Birch and Rowena Sweatman, the engaged couple from Manchester who won European titles last year, both lost in the first round. Then, in the light-middleweight repechage, Birch had a brawling, close contest with Johan Laats, of Belgium. The Briton had emerged on top when they met in the 1994 European final. This time, Laats got the decision.

Badminton heading in wrong direction

By Richard Eaton

BADMINTON has long laboured in the wake of tennis, but events at the English national championships in Norwich on Saturday night suggests it may not, after all, be far behind.

In an incident reminiscent of those which led to Jim Pierce being barred from tennis tournaments featuring his daughter, Mary, the father of England's leading women's singles player, Joanne Muggeridge, is alleged to have butted Tom John, a leading coach.

Vic Muggeridge, a retired fireman in his early fifties, was seen by a group of spectators to make a running assault on John, the coach to international players at the Wimbledon club, after a surprising result in the quarter-final of the women's doubles close to midnight. Anders Neilsen, an England international, said he saw the incident: "Suddenly Vic came up and butted Tom. He was talking as he ran into him. He caught Tom a glancing blow on the nose. Mrs Muggeridge intervened to stop them brawling."

John coached Nicola Beck and Joanne Davies, who beat the second seeded Muggeridge and Gillian Gowers. John sometimes practises with and helps Muggeridge in singles but the enthusiastic way in which he supported the winners may have provoked the incident.

John said: "If he didn't like the way I was cheering he could have said so during the match. But no one expected what he did. He threatened to beat me up and butted me. I know him quite well. I wasn't hurt but I was amazed." Vic Muggeridge denied there had been any assault. "As we walked we just touched one another," he said. "It might have looked like a head-butt but it wasn't. If I wanted to hit Tom, I would have picked my moment. But why would I want to anyway?"

John is making no formal complaint about the incident, but complaints were made about Vic Muggeridge over an incident at the Welsh Open two years ago, when he was accused of verbally abusing an England coach, Karen Chapman.

At the time, the Badminton Association of England wrote to him warning that such allegations, if true, could result in him being banned. The association is considering what action to take following the latest incident.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Champion Hall is latest upset victim

ANDERS NIELSEN caused the biggest upset of a Bell Cablemedia English national badminton championships that was already full of surprises by overcoming Darren Hall, the top-seeded former European champion, 15-12, 6-15, 15-8 in the final at Norwich yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). Nielsen, the No 2 seed, thus prevented Hall, the holder, from extending to eight his record of national men's singles titles and may have ended the 29-year-old's ambition of winning ten before he retires.

The second seed also won the women's singles. Julia Mann, who earlier had taken the British Grand Slam title in Belfast and reached the final of the Scottish Open, continued her good form by winning emphatically, 11-2, 11-6, against Alison Humby, the conqueror of Joanne Muggeridge, the No 1 seed.

Clarke misses training

RUGBY UNION: Ben Clarke, the Bath back-row forward, was unable to train with England yesterday in preparation for the five nations' championship match with Wales in Cardiff on Saturday (David Hands writes). Clarke, who turned his left ankle playing against France, is confident that he will be ready for England's private training runs in Bath on Wednesday and Thursday. Wales, whose squad trains at the Arms Park tonight, are concerned over Mike Hall. The Cardiff centre has a cracked rib but the selectors are prepared to give him most of this week in which to recover. Mark Taylor, of Pontypool, stands by.

Kenyan improves record

ATHLETICS: Moses Kiptanui, right, from Kenya, broke his own world 3,000 metres indoor record when he ran seven minutes 35.15 seconds at the Ghent international meeting yesterday. Kiptanui, who also holds the world 3,000 metres steeplechase best, trimmed 2.16 seconds off his previous best. "This is one of the fastest tracks I've ever run on," Kiptanui said.

Ferreira on way back

TENNIS: Wayne Ferreira stands just one match away from breaking back into the top ten after reaching the final of the Dubai Open (Alix Ramsay writes). His run to the final was reasonably simple until he encountered Javier Sánchez in the semi-finals, but he won 5-7, 6-1, 6-4. Ferreira will play Andrea Gaudenzi, of Italy, in the final. Gaudenzi battled to a 3-6, 7-6, 6-4 victory over Petr Korda, the No 6 seed.

Panthers top hectic week

ICE HOCKEY: At the end of a busy week, playing their third game in five days, Nottingham Panthers showed the value of having a large squad. Even without Rick Brebant, they beat Humberside Hawks 8-4 to maintain their position at the top of the British League premier division. Sheffield Steelers beat Durham Wasps and Cardiff Devils beat Basingstoke Beavers to stay in second and third places.

Wiltshire face Cumbria

BOWLS: Wiltshire, the 1984 champions, and Cumbria, winners three years ago, will meet in the final of the Manchester Unity Liberty Trophy at Melton Mowbray on April 9. Both had convincing victories on Saturday — Wiltshire 137-117 over Buckinghamshire and Cumbria, with their core of England players, 125-99 against Norfolk. The world championships start at Preston today.

Boone beats favourite

RACKETS: Willie Boone, right, the former world champion, won the Lacoste British Open championship, defeating Neil Smith, the favourite, 17-14, 16-15, 15-3, in a compelling final. Boone, 44, is one of the fittest players in the game and although he started slowly — trailing 6-14 — his form was superior to that of Smith, who is recovering from an eye injury.

Slough make progress

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: Slough, the AEWHA Cup holders, booked their passage into the fifth round with a 3-1 victory over Sutton Coldfield yesterday. The result completed a satisfying weekend for the Berkshire club, which maintained its three-point lead over Ipwich at the top of the premier divison after its captain, Lesley Hobley, scored the only goal of the game against Hightown on Saturday.

Sharks show teeth

BASKETBALL: Sheffield Sharks, four days after being upset by Birmingham Bullets in the first leg of the National Cup semi-final, won a difficult Budweiser League match against Worthing Bears on Saturday. A 16-point advantage had been cut to three by the Bears before the Sharks went away to gain an 84-73 victory that keeps them 12 points clear at the head of the table.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	40	100	fair	varied	fair	cloud	2	9/2
(Still plenty of good skiing, some icy patches)								
Obergurgl	55	130	good	varied	good	sun	-1	9/2
(Excellent piste skiing, resort quiet and no queues)								
Schladming	40	90	good	fair	poor	fair	5	5/2
(Plenty of good skiing on upper slopes)								
Söll	35	85	good	heavy	fair	fine	2	9/2
(Still good but lowest pistes wearing thin in places)								
FRANCE								
Alpe D'huez	150	360	good	powder	good	sun	0	12/2
(Excellent skiing, yet more fresh snow)								
Chamonix	70	540	good	powder	good	fair	2	11/2
(Superb skiing conditions, powder everywhere)								
Tignes	195	250	good	powder	good	fine	-2	12/2
(Superb skiing conditions eveywhere)								
Val d'Isere	160	330	good	varied	good	sun	0	12/2
(Great powder skiing, particularly on north slopes)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	80	250	good	varied	good	fine	6	11/2
(Great skiing in warm susnshine, all lifts open)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	110	345	good	powder	fair	fine	4	11/2
(Dusting of fresh snow at all altitudes)								
Klosters	65	175	good	powder	good	fair	4	11/2
(Good skiing but pistes starting to harden)								
Zermatt	75	305	good	varied	good	sun	2	9/2
(Pistes generally excellent, blue skies, no crowds)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

Boardman flies flag with pursuit success at opening of national centre in Manchester

Showdown helps peddle cycling to British public

By Andrew Longmore

IF THE substance was questionable, there was nothing wrong with the show: The Showdown at the Superdrome, as Chris Boardman v Tony Rominger was modestly billed.

In reality, it was a 75 per cent fit Boardman against a 50 per cent fit Rominger, which, given the Swiss rider's inexperience on the track and the Englishman's pedigree at the 4km distance, proved a contest for just under two minutes, the time it took the Olympic and world pursuit champion to haul in Rominger's suspiciously quick opening.

However, the point of the evening at the new £9 million national cycling centre in Manchester was in being there, in flying the flag for a popular but oppressed sport, not hoisting the Union Jack nor worrying too much about victory or defeat.

The commentator tried his best to instil some real sporting meaning to the contest — "a lot of pride at stake here . . . tremendous fightback by the Olympic champion" and, memorably, "just look at the size of those thighs" — but none of the 3,500 crowd was hoodwinked by the hype and the fact that they welcomed Rominger with the same warmth as their own man proved their hearts were in the right place.

Investment on the night was £18 a seat, for the future incalculable. When the Tour de France comes around in July, the tables are turned and televisions turned on, they can remember Rominger riding in their own backyard, recall standing and applauding him so vigorously that the personable world No I actually forgot he does not usually go in for this sort of exhibitionism.

"I would love to come back," he said. "It was only my second time on the track but I like this kind of race. The problem is that I am not very good at following the black line round the track." Rominger, at 34, is moving into the twilight of a distinguished career just as the Englishman is blinking into the dawn of a new career.

"I saw Chris at the press conference and noticed the difference between us. He has the same motivation and keenness that I had at his age. How old is he? 26. He is young and he has to take advantage of that. I used to be like him, getting stressed about it all, but now . . ." he said with a shrug. "Now, I know I could give up tomorrow and feel satisfied with what I have done. When I am on my bike, I have to do five hours' training, not four hours and 55 minutes. The difficulty for me is getting on the bike in the first place."

The suggestion that Boardman might flout all conventions by breaking into the top ten in only his second ride on the Tour, a view ventured by Roger Legeay, manager of the Gan team, prompted the mere hint of a smile in Rominger's surprisingly boyish face. You could read his mind. How to put this gently?

"We will see what happens in the mountains," he said. "He has to go slowly, win some smaller races before he has a chance for the Tour. A lot of riders have too much pressure too early and it breaks them. Only four or five riders can win the Tour, you know." Boardman, he implied, was not among them. Not this year, at any rate.

Boardman powers round the new Manchester velodrome on his way to a bloodless victory over Rominger. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Entertainment was Boardman's greater concern for the night, though he must reflect that the handsome new velodrome, just 45 minutes from his front door in Hoylake, was badly timed, just as he was leaving the track and taking to the road. "Cycling is way down the list of sports in this country," he said. "But it needs to go this way, begin to establish some characters and provide a good evening out. You want people to say: 'That was great, when's the next one?'"

The quantity, pace of the programme and presentation made Superdrome I, a continental style two-day festival of racing, an extravagant and bewildering spectacle. Barely had one winner done his lap of honour than the next race was up and away. Devil take the hindmost, Madisons, sprints ridden by men — and women — with legs like motorway pillars and something called Keirin, where cyclists chase elderly men on battered mopeds, briefly turning the £75-a-head dinner for the corporate guests at trackside into the equivalent of a picnic in Piccadilly Circus. Superdrone, a noisy rebuff to those who thought cycling a healthy, peaceful, pursuit.

Whether Superdrome I spawns a series of sequels depends on a number of variables: the ability of the organisers, Sport for Television, to attract high-class fields without breaking the bank and bring in sponsors and television; and the enthusiasm of riders for spreading the word that Britain is a progressive and knowledgeable cycling nation, able to sustain events with a lower profile than the Tour de France or Boardman v Rominger.

The world track championships are scheduled for the NCC next year. In the end, the biggest draw for those who matter is the 250 metres of Baltic pine, the track itself. "A plus" was the verdict of world sprint champion, Marty Nothstein, a powerhouse from Pennsylvania.

The showdown itself was effectively over by halfway as Rominger's two-second lead swung with indecent speed into a two-second lead for Boardman on his all-black Lotus bike. Both men expressed surprise at their pace this early in the season. When their paths cross again later in the year, it will be for real.

Sponsors take note of plans at velodrome

ALAN RUSHTON, the promoter who brought the Tour de France to Britain last year and masterminded the £250,000 international track programme in Manchester at the weekend, said last night that he already had a positive reaction from potential sponsors (Peter Bryan writes).

"There were more than 100 representatives from major corporations at the trackside — most of them probably watching indoor racing for the first time — but several were talking seriously about buying into the next three programmes we have planned at the velodrome this year," he said.

"I think we set a new standard for the sport in Britain with 16 current or former world champions in action and a slick programme that produced excitement throughout."

What now needs to be determined, he believes, is whether the velodrome, with seating capacity limited to 3,500, can be made an economic proposition.

Marty Nothstein, the US professional and double world champion, had a one-word description of the track: incredible. "If we had these facilities back home, cycling would benefit tremendously," he said. "The wooden track was very fast."

Nothstein had earlier set a 200 metres track record of 10.650sec followed by another record time of 13.258sec for 250 metres, both in excess of 42mph.

Britain was yesterday awarded the inaugural Masters world track challenge series this year, a championship for amateurs who will be 30 years of age or older next September.

Riders will be graded into age groups and will compete for sprint, time trial, pursuit and points titles.

Cycling results, page 34

O'Sullivan takes lead as final nerves fray

By Phil Yates

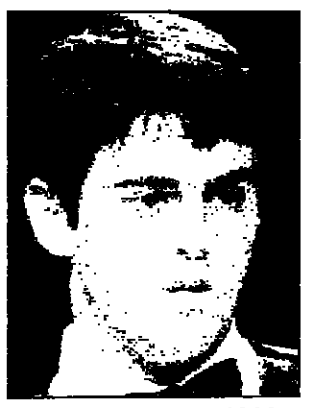
RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, the most precocious snooker talent since Jimmy White in the early 1980s, was on the threshold of becoming the youngest champion in the 21-year history of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

O'Sullivan, 19, from Chigwell, Essex, who in two-and-a-half years as a professional has already won the United Kingdom championship and British Open, established a 5-2 lead over John Higgins in the first session of the final, which is over the best of 17 frames. It left him requiring four of the remaining ten frames to secure a first prize of £120,000 and supersede Stephen Hendry, who had just celebrated his twentieth birthday when he captured the first of his five consecutive Masters titles in 1989.

Neither player approached his best during the opening session, but that was not unexpected. For two teenagers to contest any final, let alone such an important and lucrative one, is unprecedented, and it was understandable that they succumbed to the pressure.

Higgins cleared brown, blue and pink to steal the first frame, and led 50-16 in the second when he missed a straightforward red to a middle pocket. O'Sullivan fashioned a 47 clearance to the pink, in which his positional expertise was to the fore.

Higgins appeared unsettled, and O'Sullivan accounted for the third frame with a 68 break. Soon, without any contributions of note, he had moved 3-1 ahead. He manoeuvres the cue-ball effortlessly, and it was this ability which allowed him to construct a decisive 53 break in the fifth frame to lead 4-1, even though the balls were awkwardly placed. Five minutes later, after a run of 82, the score was 5-1 in O'Sullivan's favour, and Higgins was in danger of being swamped.



O'Sullivan: record bid

In the closing frame of the afternoon, O'Sullivan had two gilt-edged opportunities to make it 6-1, but when he missed a second simple red in succession, Higgins made a 73 break to limit his interval arrears to 2-5.

Higgins, seven months O'Sullivan's junior, did not play well against Jimmy White in the semi-finals on Saturday, but he was not required to. Higgins made only one break of note, a 61, during his 6-1 victory as White slipped back into the abysmal form which has marked his season.

In contrast, the snooker during O'Sullivan's 6-4 semi-final defeat of Peter Ebdon was of the highest quality. O'Sullivan compiled breaks of 48, 102, 51, 73 and 70 in building a 5-2 advantage, but Ebdon is at his most dangerous when facing adversity.

Ebdon, who had enjoyed earlier runs of 131 — a total clearance — 73 and 52, fought back to 4-5, and a repeat of his quarter-final escape against Hendry looked a strong possibility. O'Sullivan compiled a 54 break on his initial scoring visit in the tenth frame, but he still only fell over the winning line after missing two short-range reds and a black as his nerves became increasingly frayed.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 6-4, J Higgins (Scot) bt J White (Eng) 6-1. Final: O'Sullivan leads Higgins 5-2. Frame scores (O'Sullivan first): 52-64, 63-50, 74-9, 67-5, 65-36, 82-0, 4-117.

Sleepy potting shed the cue for curry and TV set

Simon Wilde masters the rituals of snooker at the Wembley Conference Centre

Tournament snooker is a game of precision, not only for players but also for spectators. If a player misses a long pot by a few degrees, he can expect to sit out the rest of the frame. If a spectator misses the start of a frame by a few seconds, he can expect to sit outside until it is finished.

Such details are invariably learnt the hard way, but at least the concourse at the Wembley Conference Centre, where the Benson and Hedges Masters finished yesterday, had its consolations for those feeling ashamed and frustrated by their exclusion.

For one thing, they were far from alone. Apart from the Maroon Jackets on the doors who issued the initial rebuffs, there were plenty of other "spectators" sharing in their shame and frustration. At least, I assumed they were not on the outside of their own volition, until I noticed that many were consoling themselves not only with company but also with food, drink and cigarettes, all of which were in plentiful supply on the concourse but were banned from the auditorium.

A few were also taking advantage of the betting shop offering odds on every conceivable result in the less-than-one-frame-old semi-final between Ronnie O'Sullivan and Peter Ebdon.

Before the second frame, a few of us — but far from all — went to join the Virtuous in the inner sanctum. This was a mistake. Once eyes had adjusted to the darkness, and one had trodden over other people's coats to take one's seat, this temple of gloom had all the atmosphere of a public library on a Saturday afternoon; only the seats were more comfortable.

These seats surrounded what looked like a children's play area. It was marked by low, red set-builder's walls, and inside was a snooker table, numerous arrangements of obviously artificial flowers, a crisply dressed referee and two even more crisply dressed men with cues. The men with cues looked miserable.

Nothing much seemed to be happening, although it was clear that a lot of people were strenuously trying not to make a noise and disturb the concentration of the men with cues. The stillness was quite exhausting, and with the seats inviting and the air stultifying — it was immediately clear why the flowers were not real, because no living thing could have survived in there for long — sleep became one of the more tempting options.

We watched O'Sullivan and Ebdon make several unexpected mistakes. These errors were the cue for most of the spectator participation, prompting urgent shouts of "C'mon, Ronnie!" or "C'mon, Peter!", though usually by way of admonishment rather than encouragement. It was grim, worthy stuff. A woman in an adjoining seat, accompanying her boyfriend, put her head on her hand and started to breathe steadily.

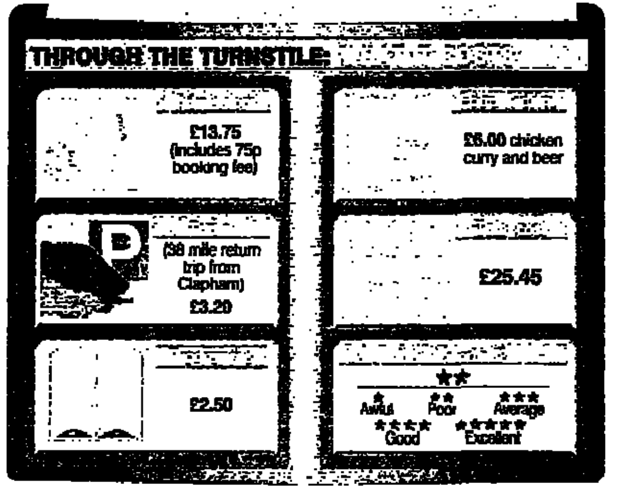
I returned to the Unworthy on the concourse and purchased a chicken curry and a beer. The curry was excellent, and as I ate I looked up and watched on the television monitor as O'Sullivan went three frames up. This was the way to watch snooker, the greatest television-made sport in history: on television.

Elsewhere on the concourse, one smoker cadged a light from another. Between puffs, the second smoker said: "I couldn't stand it in there any longer. The air was so oppressive." Someone else wandered away from one of the doors, having arrived too late and been sent away — courteously enough — by a Maroon Jacket. "Too late, am I? That's very nice, that is."

Back inside the auditorium, attendants waited for the players to return from an interval by fanning out and facing the spectators, as though they expected one of them to attempt to steal the Masters trophy or damage the children's play area, surely an unthinkable action from so virtuous a crowd.

Play continued. The spectators resumed their wait to Ooh and Aah over the next mistake, the players continued to look terrified of making one. O'Sullivan, who last November threatened to retire at the age of 18 because his snooker was not perfect, won the sixth frame to lead 4-2, but remained glum, it having been a scrappy frame.

At that point I left, hoping to catch the end of the match on television at home. To paraphrase Sam Goldwyn's warning: "Why should people go out and pay to see snooker when they can stay at home and see it on television for nothing?"



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★★
★ Awful
★★ Poor
★★★ Average
★★★★ Good
★★★★★ Excellent

Walsh's bowling proves daunting

By Our Sports Staff

COURTNEY WALSH, the West Indies captain, destroyed New Zealand's first innings with his best Test performance, seven for 37, and made them follow on 444 runs behind on the third day of the second Test in Wellington yesterday.

Walsh then bowled Bryan Young for a duck in the first over of the second innings to collect his 250th Test wicket. New Zealand got into even deeper trouble when Kenneth Benjamin got Andrew Jones leg-before without scoring in the second over and Curtly Ambrose trapped Ken Rutherford leg-before for four soon after.

By the close, New Zealand were reeling at 52 for three and staring at the most comprehensive defeat in their history. The day belonged to Walsh. On a lifeless pitch on which three West Indians scored centuries and three others made half-centuries to amass 660 for five, he bowled with sustained pace, accuracy and hostility.

His figures beat his six for 62 against India in 1988-89 and were the best by a West Indian against New Zealand.

"It's one of the few times I've bowled well and had the figures to show for it," Walsh said. "All of those wickets I will cherish." With his 250th, he overtook Michael Holding to become the fourth-highest wicket-taker in West Indies history.

New Zealand's batting display was inept. The wicket gave the fast bowlers no assistance and for the most part the batsmen were beaten by pace or played poor shots.

Only Murray, with 52, and Fleming, with 47, showed fight as New Zealand lost their last five wickets for 20 runs. Victory for West Indies would be sweet. They have not won a series in New Zealand since 1955-56 and New Zealand were the last side to win a series against them, in 1979-80. The first Test of the two-match series was drawn.

Brian Lara, who hit 147 in the West Indies innings, is to undergo eye surgery. The record-breaking Lara insisted that the laser operation to clear a film on his eye is not serious and that he was not sure when it would take place. There seemed to be little wrong with his eyesight as he hit his fourth Test hundred on Friday. He said he was enjoying the tour and felt under less pressure than in West Indies' recent trip to India, where he was in poor form.

Pakistanis to launch bribe probe

A TOP Pakistani cricket official said yesterday he was angry about charges by his Australian counterpart that Australian cricketers had been offered bribes to throw a Test match in Pakistan last year.

"We take serious exception to the fact that this occurrence was not brought to the attention of the BCCP [Board of Cricket Clubs of Pakistan]," Javed Burki said. He said the BCCP had asked the Australians for names.

"We would be delighted to know who made the offer because we must rid the game of these characters." Burki said.

Graham Halbish, the chief executive of the Australian Cricket Board, said that several players had been approached. He would not confirm a report that Shane Warne and Tim May had rejected an offer of £33,000 to throw the first Test in Karachi but said an offer had been made before the match.

A newspaper said a Pakistani cricket personality had tried to bribe the pair. It said another offer was made before the final Test in Lahore.

England A lament one-over penalty

By Our Sports Staff

PHIL NEALE, the England A team manager, believes the side's first taste of defeat in India can have a galvanising effect on the final fortnight of what has been a highly successful tour.

"We had an off day, which, after winning the 'Test' series 3-0, I suppose is understandable," Neale said after the six-run defeat in the first one-day international in Indore on Saturday. "It's not an acceptable reason — we didn't bowl well enough and let them get at least 20 runs too many — but perhaps there was a little bit of anticlimax. But that result I'm sure will focus the players again. We can still win the series 2-1 and we dearly want to."

England A felt harshly treated by the umpires, who imposed a one-over penalty after their failure to bowl their 50 overs inside the prescribed 3½ hours. Four minutes were allowed for various stoppages but that still left England a further four minutes over the limit as India A reached 201 for seven.

The umpires' decision meant that England had left themselves only 49 overs in which to score 202. Despite a brave chase on a pitch on which it became increasingly difficult to play strokes, the missing over made all the difference.

England A began the final over needing 14 runs and that proved too tall an order for Paul Nixon and the last man, Richard Stemp. "What upset us most was that the umpires allowed only 2½ minutes for the delay following Vikram Rathore's blow on the helmet, when in fact it was at least five minutes," Neale said.

"Then there was another injury, plus a lot of coming and going for glove changes. None of that was of our doing. In the next games we shall just have to disallow the opposition things like that if the umpires are not going to be more lenient."

England A spent yesterday travelling from Indore to Ahmedabad, where they play the second match of the series tomorrow. "One of the reasons behind the tour was to give everyone a good opportunity of sampling Indian conditions and I think we have to try to make sure all the players get a game this week," Neale said.

Scoreboards from Indore and Wellington 34

Crewe's home-grown crop serves up some big-city blues

Gradi: nurturing talent

Andrew Longmore on a 2-1 victory over Birmingham City that confirmed the standing of a renowned football academy

The balance was just the way Dario Gradi likes it: high rollers coming to hick town, wallets open and noses high, and leaving 90 minutes later minus Rolex, credit cards and cash. All in a day's mugging for the Fagin of the lower leagues and his posse of pickpockets. "Their team might have cost more," the manager of Crewe Alexandra said with that half-smile that precedes a slice of home truth, "ours is probably worth more."

To be fair, his opposite number, Barry Fry, agreed wholeheartedly. He would not, he said in his best Portobello Road manner, give eight quid the pair for Francis and Otto, his recent £800,000 signings. Neither was he inclined to up the bidding for the rest of his team. "Slow, lethargic, awful, a shambles," he muttered.

On this showing, Crewe are by far the better bet for promotion from the second division of the Endsleigh Insurance League. After a 5-0 thrashing by Birmingham City earlier in the season, they have added the long ball to their repertoire of short passes, and they used it to good effect against their tormentors, not by hoofing it up as Birmingham did to the head of the 6ft 7in Francis, but by measuring long passes into the spaces either side of or between the two City centre backs, who were constantly caught flat-footed by the intelligent diagonal running of Clarkson and Murphy, Crewe's goalscorers.

Crewe had the game well under control until Birmingham scored a minute from time, and yet, as Gradi pointed out, what hope have Crewe in the long run when their average gate is about the same size as Birmingham's playing staff? "In five years, they should push away from us," he said, "but in five months, who knows?"

The programme was full of sideswipes at the apathy of the Crewe public, which at least responded with the best gate of the season at little Gresty Road. But the prospect of Crewe reaching the top two divisions for the first time should stop every manager in the league from moaning. Not that long ago, Crewe were so used to applying for re-election, they once asked the Football League for a five-year exemption to save on postage. If Crewe can do it, anyone can.

Crewe's progress has been based on a simple formula: find some children, give them a football and teach them how to play. So simple, one wonders why more clubs have not tried it. The different phases of development were there for all to see on Saturday, the maturity of Danny Murphy, 17, being matched by the scampering skill of 14 under-12s from the Crewe School of Excellence during the interval. Everyone lives within an hour's radius of the ground, and any one could be another David Platt or Rob Jones, the next mouthful for a club forever perched on the breadline.

While clubs like Birmingham can afford to buy their way out of trouble, Crewe breed their survival. Murphy — English, not Irish, despite the name — came to the club at 13, relatively late, but Gradi describes him as a footballer, not as a striker or midfield player, with a head beyond his years and a good pedigree. "He was 30 when he was 17, quite happy to tell older players where they went wrong," Gradi said. "I've no idea what he's worth now, but I wouldn't sell him for £800,000."

Bigger clubs are already eyeing him, and what they saw against Birmingham will only sharpen their senses. Murphy, crew cut and busy, time and again found space where there should have been none behind Clarkson. With a little more assurance, he could have added to his decisive goal just after the hour, a well-struck free kick — which put Crewe 2-0 ahead — Clarkson had cracked in the first from another free kick — and earned him the man-of-the-match award.

My own choice was a boy barely ten, his legs sticking out of his shorts like drainpipes, whose half-time repertoire included an impeccable backheel and an exquisite shimmy. What Fry could have done with a ha'p'orth worth of such flair in his collection of expensively minted forgeries.

CREWE ALEXANDRA (4-4-2): M Smith — M Booty, S Macauley, B Barr, S Smith — F Tierney, N Lennon, G Whalley, P Clarkson — D Adebola (sub S Garvey, 20min), D Murphy

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): I Bennett — G Poole, D Barnett, L Daish, C Whyte — L Donowa, G Cooper (sub: P Shearer, 45), M Ward, R Otto (sub: J Dominguez, 45) — K Francis, P Tait.

Referee: J Winter

Supporters contribute to black day for Horton

Michael Henderson on a 3-0 derby victory for Manchester United that added to their neighbours' troubles

Life is slow dying when you are a Manchester City follower. In the past 15 years they have beaten United only once, that freakish 5-1 win in October 1989, when the United supporters angrily demanded the head of Alex Ferguson. That seems ages ago now, like the ancient Pharaohs, and desolation lies before City as an Egyptian plain.

By the end of this match the disunity at Maine Road could not have been displayed more graphically. Thousands of home supporters left early, exasperated by their latest numbing experience. Hundreds more sang the disgusting song about the 1958 Munich air crash that one had hoped never to hear again. All round the ground, most notably in the main stand, there were fist fights as frustration spilt over into random violence. It was a sordid revelation of unfulfilled hopes and sad little lives.

United won pulling up, as it were. With better finishing, and greater urgency, they could have doubled their scoring. After enduring all that City could throw at them in the first half, which was not a lot in terms of chances created, they ran in three second-half goals at their leisure, and neither Hughes nor Keane was playing. Even without their precious Frenchman, they can still get their kicks.

There are times when one wonders what goes through the minds of some supporters. In the official match programme — not one of those infantile fanzines — City's "supporters' representative", who attends board meetings for some reason, referred to "Old Nafford". He was trying, in a strained way, to be funny and he got a pretty emphatic response. If that is the sort of person the supporters want to represent their interests, they deserve a few more tonkings.

Having won just one of their last 11 league matches, tonkings they will assuredly get. It is hard to see what more Brian Horton can do. The City manager is an honest enough man, but he is manifestly out of his depth. For his own sake, and the team's, the sooner he goes the better.

Like all beleaguered managers, he has begun to argue with the conviction of a man who knows he is wrong. He was not sure, for instance, that his team had got "a pasting". The main difference, he felt, was that "we gave the ball away all the time and they didn't". It is a fairly big difference.

For all City's failings, not least in defence, where David Brightwell makes a good centre half at left back, United looked true champions. On a heavy pitch that was passed fit an hour and a half before the kick-off, they preferred to let the ball do the work. City had spent all passion long before the second goal and their players looked very tired at the end. Other than a first-half shot from Paul Walsh, struck from outside the area, Schmeichel was tested only by the jeering of disappointed supporters.

That was the measure of United's defending, not just across the back, where Pallister was outstanding, but further forward, where McClair had an industrious and typically selfless match. Giggs twinkled once more and Cole maintained his bedding-down process with one goal and a foot in another.

Ince gave United the lead with a shot that Summerbee deflected beyond Dibble. The goalkeeper was fooled then but he was more culpable when Kanchelskis beat him at the near post in the 75th minute. By that stage, Disgusted of Fallowfield had decided enough was enough and was on his way home. Cole's simple sidefoot three minutes later, after McClair had released Giggs, put the tin lid on it.

How Horton must envy Ferguson. United have put eight goals past City this season without reply and can afford to play an 18-year-old, Philip Neville, at left back just for the experience. They whisked him off just after half-time, sending on Scholes to give a different focus to the attack, and he did not disappoint them. While he was on the field, Neville looked a marvellous prospect. Here is yet another young United player who feels comfortable with the ball.

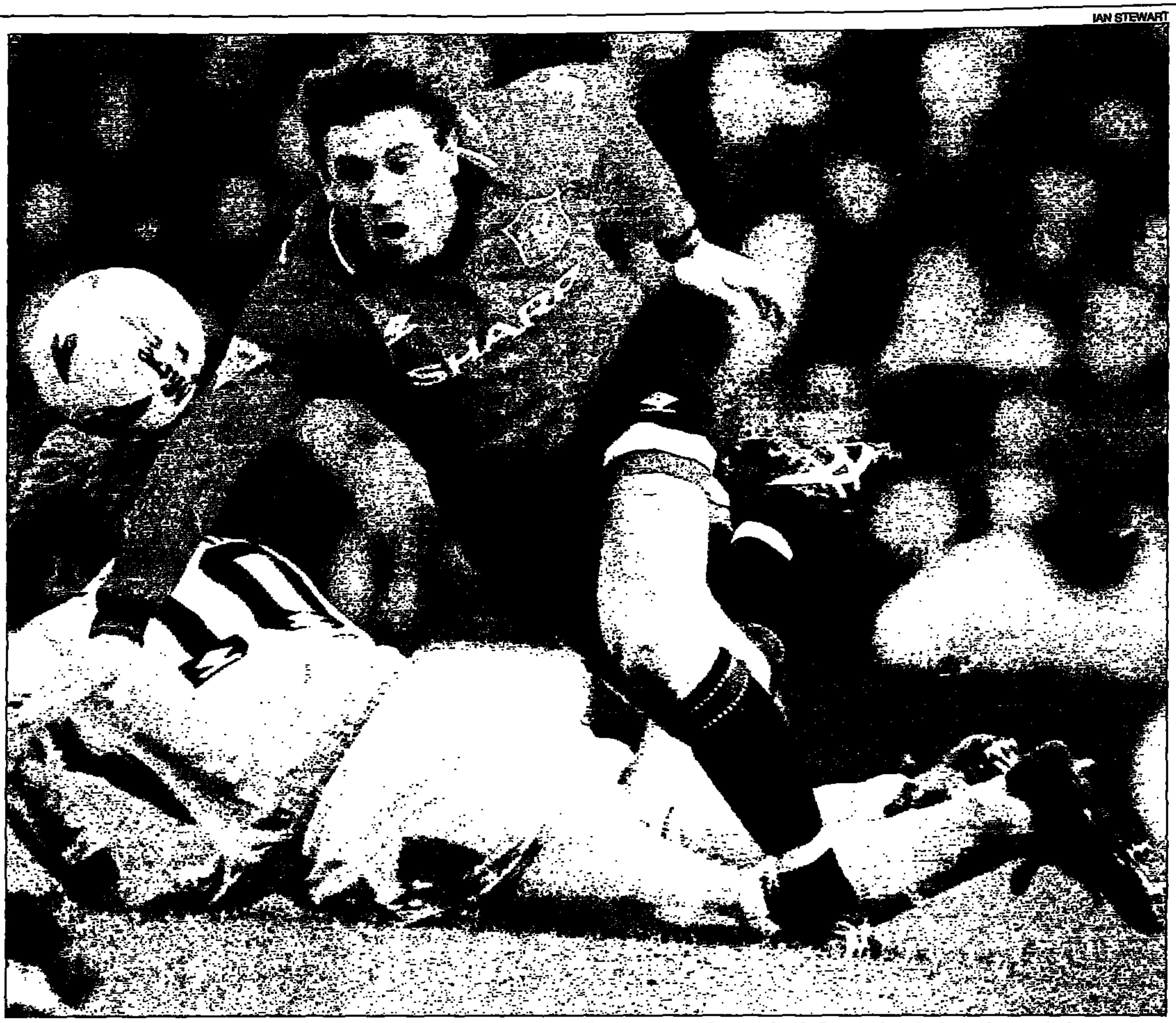
City's disaffection was reflected in Philip Don's notebook. Rösler was booked for dissent, Beagrie and Quinn for poor challenges. Now they must go to Newcastle for an awkward fifth-round FA Cup tie and prepare for a beastly end to the season. Someone will be drawn into the relegation scrap and they are not a good enough side to be sure it will not be them.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): A Dibble — N Summerbee, K Curle, A Kernaghan, D Brightwell — M Gaudino, I Brightwell, G Flitcroft, P Beagrie (sub: N Quinn, 63min) — P Walsh, U Rösler

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-3): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, S Bruce, G Pallister, P Neville (sub: P Scholes, 53) — B McClair, P Ince, L Sharpe — A Kanchelskis (sub: D May, 82), A Cole, R Giggs.

Referee: P Don

IAN STEWART


Kanchelskis, the United winger, emerges with the ball despite the attentions of Flitcroft, of City, during the Manchester derby

Collymore misses other half of act

Newcastle United	2
Nottingham Forest	1

By Alyson Rudd

THEY are classy, inventive, capable of stirring the soul and they are also-rans. Neither Newcastle United nor Nottingham Forest are likely to prick the North West bubble this season. Their FA Carling Premiership encounter on Saturday was all about striving for third place and it felt about right. Good enough to strut their stuff in Europe; but not as champions.

Both clubs do, on occasions, look like championship material but, while their style and managerial nous cannot be faulted, they lack the ability to maintain their momentum when key players are missing. Indeed, the suspended Bryan Roy should not be too surprised if he receives a Valentine card from Stan Collymore tomorrow, for Stan is only half the man without him.

Collymore had to play as a lone striker and found himself the target of the linesman's offside flag more often than his team-mates' passes. Without Roy, Forest lack a player who can dazzle and unsettle defenders and set up their leading goalscorer.

Eighty-eight minutes had elapsed before Collymore exhibited one of those energy surges he is famed for. He shrugged off Howey and powered goalwards with only Srnicek to beat. Unfortunately for Collymore, the Newcastle goalkeeper was able to stretch out and claw the ball from under the Forest striker's feet.

Newcastle are blessed with far more creative depth in their squad, but not so blessed that a bout of flu has had no effect on their performances. Their recent 3-0 defeat at Loftus Road could partially be explained away by the heavy colds suffered by Fox, Peacock and Srnicek and the suspensions of Beresford and Howey.

Full results and league tables ....Page 28

While Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, has been more than vindicated for his faith in Gillespie, the obsession among the Toon Army after the game as to whether Cole had scored one of Manchester United's goals underlines the fact that Newcastle still need a centre forward with more steel than Kitson.

True champions do not let such a problem end in defeat. Indeed, Manchester United are thriving without the two players many felt were the linchpin of their success: Hughes and Cantona. It is probably not a coincidence that Giggs has returned to form, Cantona's exile giving him the opportunity to become the fulcrum instead of just the frills.

Gillespie has that potential, too. He will be 20 on Saturday but already oozes the confidence of a seasoned professional and he had a hand in both goals. After 48 minutes, he laid the ball off to Hottiger and the Swiss international crossed for Fox to head Newcastle ahead. Then, with 16 minutes left, Gillespie set up Robert Lee for their second.

Forest scored a minute later, Jason Lee heading in Lyttle's cross from the right. It was too late to save a point but served as a reminder that at 6ft 2in, Collymore does surprisingly little of note with his head.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P Srnicek — M Hottiger, D Peacock, S Howey, J Beresford — K Gillespie (sub: P Bracewell, 75min), B Venison, R Lee, R Fox — P Beardsley, P Kitson.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-5-1): M Crossley — D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce — S Stone, S Gemmill, D Phillips, A I Haaland (sub: J Lee, 73), I Woan — S Collymore

Referee: K Morton.

Liverpool gain relief as Scales gets even

Liverpool	1
Queens Park Rangers	1

By Peter Ball

THESE are eventful times for the Liverpool central defenders. Phil Babb and Neil Ruddock were sent off in their two previous games, and on Saturday, John Scales took centre stage, popping up unexpectedly to score and rescue an FA Carling Premiership point from a dire performance at Anfield.

What Scales was doing in the Queens Park Rangers penalty area to meet Ian Rush's low cross was another matter. "I don't know what he was doing up there, but I'm glad he was," a relieved Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. Scales rushed off to a party before he could be asked for his views.

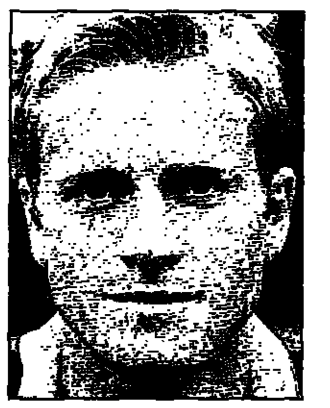
For much of the game it looked as if the whole Liverpool team was thinking about celebrating Steve McManaman's 23rd birthday. They have gone off the boil at the wrong time. A return of five goals in their last nine matches tells its own story.

Fowler is a shadow of the electrifying goalscorer of autumn and early winter. Then, McManaman was the most thrilling sight in football, beating two or three men at a time to create openings for Fowler and Rush, or to shoot with precision himself. Now he loiters palely, often running into culs-de-sac.

With Barnes looking heavy and short of fitness after his lay-off — after one spell of involvement he was to be seen struggling to get his breath back on the halfway line — the service to the forwards lacks its former incisiveness. For 45 minutes on Saturday, Liverpool were awful.

On Tuesday, against Burnley, Evans had complained that his side had passed the ball without purpose. This was worse. "The difference today was they didn't pass it, full stop," he said.

Many on Merseyside blame the system of three centre backs. Evans insists that the same system has served them successfully so far, but with Scales the worst culprit, and Babb and Ruddock not far behind, they looked out of sorts with themselves, giving the ball away consistently and failing to come to terms with the power and movement of Ferdinand and the exciting young Gallen, once Fowler's partner in the England youth team.


Scales: surprise equaliser

Gallen's goal, after only six minutes, told the story of the first half in a nutshell. McManaman was trapped on the touchline and gave the ball away; Barker hit a precise pass forward, and the central defence parted obligingly to leave Gallen space to go on and hit a shot which went through James's hands and under his body.

The interval changed things. Evans had words and Liverpool at last looked more like their usual selves, putting Rangers under sustained pressure. A change to a flat back four helped, but Rangers, too, lost some of their shape. "I thought we defended too deep," Barker said.

For a time, with Maddix at the heart, they defended well enough, and it took a foul by Ruddock, who was booked, and a fine save by James to deny Ferdinand before Walters released Rush and Scales arrived to turn his cross home. Rangers held on comfortably for their point, beating a path with their neat, composed football for Crystal Palace and Wimbledon — Liverpool's next opponents — to tread this week with some confidence.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — J Scales, N Ruddock, P Babb — R Jones, S McManaman, M Thomas (sub: J Redknapp, 68min), J Barnes, S I Bjornebye (sub. M Walters, 53) — R Fowler, I Rush.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): A Roberts — D Bardsley, D Maddix, A McDonald, C Wilson — A Impey, I Holloway, S Barker, R Brevett — L Ferdinand, K Gallen

Referee: D Gallagher.

Palace pups prove soft touch in hard school

Crystal Palace	0
Coventry City	2

By Pat Gibson

COVENTRY City made no bones about it. Their objective was to drag Crystal Palace into the dogfight at the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, where five points separate a pack of eight clubs cowering above the grounded Leicester City and Ipswich Town.

Survival is the name of the game, and Coventry, who have clung tenaciously to their place in the top division for 28 years, knew far more about it than Palace's young pups. Palace are going to have to grow up quickly if they are to stay for more than one season.

Alan Smith, the Palace manager, admitted as much when he said: "My lads think you survive in the Premiership by going out and playing football all the time. Their first goal was a boot down the middle, we let it bounce, and it was in the back of our net. If that's what keeps you in the division for 28 years, I'll have some of it, please."

The fact that the 75th-minute goal came seconds after Palace had been denied a penalty — Borrows appearing to pull back Dowie as he moved on to Preece's flick — incensed the home supporters, but Smith had no complaints. "From where I was sitting, I didn't think it was a penalty in a month of Sundays," he said. "Even if it was, I didn't see what all the song and dance was about. It was not given and while people were running about complaining to the linesman, they were scoring the goal."

It was a perfect example of Palace's naivety in the mud and rain of a filthy south London afternoon as Ogrizovic hoofed the ball 75 yards, Shaw and Coleman failed to clear, and Cobi Jones planted the ball past Martyn.

That goal put Coventry on the way to their first win in 12 Premiership games, and eased the pressure on their manager, Phil Neal, who had the brainwave of playing Jones, the United States winger, without an appearance this year, as a striker. "I just felt it was something a little bit different," he said. "Cobi has good pace, he was always threatening, and he gave us a refreshing look."

Dublin's clinical 85th-minute finish after Ndlovu had dispossessed Patterson simply added to Palace's depression at the start of a momentous week in which they visit Liverpool in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final and Watford in the fifth round of the FA Cup.

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): N Martyn — D Patterson, R Shaw, C Coleman, D Gordon — G Southgate, R Bowry (sub D Preece, 70min), D Pitcher, G Ndah — I Dowie, J Salako

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — A Pickering, S Pressley, B Borrows, S Morgan — S Flynn (sub: J Darby, 66), M Marsh, D Rennie, P Ndlovu — D Dublin, C Jones.

Referee: M Bodenham.

Draw cannot hide Chelsea's decline

Chelsea	1
Tottenham Hotspur	1

By Keith Pike

NO TROUBLE off the field, a desperately needed point on it, and Chelsea staff and supporters were in bullish mood on Saturday. It says much for the club's predicament that they could be so easily pleased.

When Dennis Wise popped up ten minutes from time with the equaliser that deprived Tottenham of a deserved victory, he was merely fanning the smokescreen created by the behaviour of the lunatic fringe among their followers four days earlier. The reality is that Chelsea are a mediocre side in miserable form, and that complacency could all too easily be coupled with relegation in May.

So what has happened to the Glenn Hoddle revolution? A player who, in his prime, was the epitome of football purity, who as a manager preaches the virtues of the beautiful game, was reduced here to praising his side's spirit. Fair enough, in that Chelsea, outplayed for long periods, ran themselves into the heavy Stamford Bridge ground to scratch a draw from a match that should have been put beyond them with an hour gone. But where was the style, the adventure, the composure? Like diamond formations, discarded in the name of pragmatism.

Despite that, Chelsea have now gone ten matches without an FA Carling Premiership victory, and it is nearly four months since their last home win in the league, a run that has seen them slip steadily down the table so that they now hover just three points above the relegation zone.

Commitment apart, Chelsea were lacking in all areas of the field. Their powers of organisation, too, were in marked contrast to a Tottenham team getting better week by week. Hoddle had made a point of warning Chelsea about Tottenham's near-post corner routine. He could only look on aghast when Anderton's cross found Sheringham in glorious isolation to give Tottenham a ninth-minute lead.

When, with Chelsea chasing the game late in the second half, Clarke crossed to the far post as his three targets made identical runs to the opposite side of the area, Hoddle had had enough, and his decision to step off the substitutes' bench paid dividends when his deft centre enabled Wise to glance a header past Walker and in off a post.

However, had Popescu not spurned the gift chance presented by Klinsmann's unselfishness, or had Anderton's cross-shot not rebounded to safety off the foot of a post, Wise's goal would have had no more that consolation value. Chelsea are in some disarray. They cannot say they have not been warned.

CHELSEA (4-3-1-2): D Kharine — S Clarke, D Lee, F Sinclair, S Minto — D Rocastle (sub: G Hoddle, 67min), E Newton, D Wise — G Peacock (sub. P Furlong, 46) — M Stein, J Spencer.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-3-1-2): I Walker — S Campbell, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, J Edinburgh — D Anderton, G Popescu, D Howells — N Barmby — E Sheringham, J Klinsmann.

Referee: P Durkin

Swindon Town carry slender advantage into Coca-Cola Cup semi-final second leg

Thorne's double spikes Bolton challenge

Swindon Town	2
Bolton Wanderers	1

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A TEMPEST coursed over the County Ground, Swindon, yesterday, sending this Coca-Cola Cup semi-final first leg billowing in all directions. A fine match it was too, despite a late outburst of ugliness that resulted in John McGinlay getting a yellow card that was inadequate for a crunching late tackle, and Mark Robinson being sent off for cuffing McGinlay round the back of the neck in retaliation.

Unfortunate. For, until that exchange in the 87th minute, we had witnessed, on a pitch made up of tons of sand and heavy-duty mud, evidence that the first division possesses skills of which even those high in the self-elected Premiership would be proud. The foreign elements to both teams, Jan Aage Fjortoft and Mixu Paatelainen, are Scandinavians whose use of their athletic bodies to shield the ball is an example to anyone.

Yet Fjortoft was, this time, the support man for Swindon Town. His new partner, sold from Blackburn Rovers by Kenny Dalglish for £750,000, is Peter Thorne, and he, for the second time in only the second full match that he has played, scored twice.

To do so, he had to engage the spirit, the underdog ambition that had carried Swindon to the old League Cup final, where they beat Arsenal, in 1969. For Bolton, quite the most balanced and talented side in the division, also desperately want to get to Wembley; and their 3-0 league victory over Swindon in November suggests that they might well do so.

Lee, left, and Thorne, of Swindon, battle for possession during yesterday's Coca-Cola Cup semi-final first leg at the County Ground. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

It seemed even more likely in the opening quarter of an hour. Bolton were full of verve and imagination, their movement left Swindon standing, and the Swindon back four, shorn of the injured Bodin and Culverhouse, were, in the words of their manager, Steve McMahon, in awe of better placed opposition.

Certainly they were caught standing like statues in the ninth minute when Alan Stubbs, rated the finest centre half outside the Premiership, turned opportunist goalscorer. He stood alone, foolishly unmarked, when Thompson swung a corner over from the left. Poor Micky Hammond, the Swindon goalkeeper, had no chance as Stubbs despatched an unchallenged shot from seven yards.

So it was 1-0, and showed every sign of becoming many more. But gradually Fjortoft, galvanised by the crosses of Beauchamps and the articulate touches from Ling, began to impose himself. The Norwegian has such a presence, such control for a big man, such determination. And, running with the capricious wind at his back, he received muscular assistance from Thorne.

It was the latter who equalled the score in the 37th minute, rising at the far post to head down another peach of a cross by Beauchamps.

Inside the dressing-room, McMahon set about his players for standing back, "giving too much respect" to Bolton. Bruce Rioch, his opposing manager, was even more condemnatory.

"We started off brightly," Rioch said later. "Thereafter we were abysmal, poor, shocking. That was probably as bad as we played all season. You would have thought that, blessed with the run of form we have had, we would have had the confidence to go on and win the thing. We didn't, we managed to get worse."

Excessive, those Rioch opinions. Certainly they did not apply to Paatelainen, the Finn, who stands as tall and as broad as Fjortoft and whose only problem in gathering the ball and holding it was that he lacked a partner such as Thorne. The latter, 21, and a Mancunian, mocks the belief that there is no depth of talent in this land. He fully deserved to score the match-winner in the 77th minute. Inevitably Fjortoft created it; Branagan could only palm down the Scandinavian's shot and there was Thorne to bang it gleefully into the net.

That slender lead may not be enough, but what a pity that it was not the lasting impression of the game. McGinlay came on as a substitute, attempted to tackle Robinson with an effort he described as fair. Robinson described it as "likely to cause a serious injury — it was just like the one that tore my medial ligaments 18 months ago".

The referee saw neither that late tackle, nor the swipe with which Robinson connected with McGinlay. The linesman had, and in an afternoon of excellent officiating, referee Alcock consulted him and then issued two cards: yellow for the perpetrator of violence, red for the retaliator.

And then McMahon had to be prevented from remonstrating with McGinlay after the final whistle. His temper cooled, but not his logic: "Robinson had to be sent off. I concede that. But the same lad had had his career threatened by a similar tackle. The tackle was very, very late."

SWINDON TOWN (4-4-2) N Hammond — W O'Sullivan, M Robinson, S Taylor, E Murray — M Ling, L Nijholt, K Horlock, J Beauchamp — P Thorne, J-A Fjortoft.
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2). K Branagan — S Green, S Coleman, A Stubbs, J Phillips — D Lee, J McAteer, R Sneekes, A Thompson — M Paatelainen, O Coyle (sub: J McGinlay, 89min).
Referee: P Alcock.

Aitken era begins with victory and cheers for Miller

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

Sentimentality is always the visitor's vice. As the road north approaches Aberdeen it is easy to glance left to the farmland and right to the sea, where the oil rigs lie, before concluding that this is the place where prosperity and tradition merge. The judgment may be trite, but it survived even a visit to Pittodrie for Aberdeen's 2-0 victory over Rangers.

Any frenzy was imported by the supporters who travelled from Glasgow. Yet, on this one occasion, there had been every reason to expect tumult among the followers of Aberdeen.

After all, Willie Miller had been dismissed last Monday. During the match itself, the noisiest contribution to that topic came from the Rangers ranks, who sang sarcastically, "One Willie Miller".

Regulars at Pittodrie are used to the jibes about their placidity. The hoary joke says that goals are celebrated with the rustling of sweetie papers but, in reality, these are not people whose emotions have been unplugged. It is just that the Aberdeen supporters specialise in deep undemonstrative feelings. Unflinching loyalty is among them.

At any other club Miller would have been sent on his way with the public's imprecations ringing in his ears. In three years the manager had taken a side that was merely unfulfilled into an utterly abject position, tremulously concerned with relegation.

In fact, soon after his dismissal, a poll conducted by the local evening newspaper found nine out of ten supporters insisting that the manager should have been spared. It is the sort of fidelity you might almost mistake for perversity. This institution tends towards stability.

Miller's successor, Roy Aitken, a caretaker until the summer, can be grateful for that instinct. No hysteria intervened to scramble his plans in this fixture. Even so, there was an encouraging impulse about Aitken's whole approach.

He restored players such as Eoin Jess and Ray McKinnon, placing his trust in skill rather than tedious industry. Over the past three years, the dwindling of Jess's talent has been one of the most exasperating features of a shrinking club.

His natural role is supposed to lie just behind a pair of strikers. Playing "in the hole", however, he can often appear to have fallen down one. Yesterday Jess operated on the right of midfield, giving a performance that was helpful if not overwhelming.

The Ibrox manager, Walter Smith, knew the hazards of this game and buttressed his side by giving debuts to Alex Cleland and Gary Bollan, whom he recently signed from Dundee United for a joint fee of £750,000. Both could be relied upon to cover and tackle on the flanks. Nonetheless, Rangers, in their measured way, appeared to be taking control in the first half.

The nature of the match was only altered by an error as Gough, in 55 minutes, left a header short as he attempted to find Maxwell. The keeper lunged as Shearer moved in for the ball and floored the striker. Dodds's penalty was low and true.

A few moments before, Charlie Miller had sprawled theatrically in the Aberdeen area after a challenge by Wright, but the referee, Mr McCluskey, may have been put off by Miller's antics and denied what could have been a genuine penalty.

Later, another penalty claim was spurned when Inglis charged into Laudrup. Aberdeen clinched victory two minutes from the end. McCall, attempting a foolish cleverness 18 yards from his goal, was robbed by Shearer, who took a pace and drove low into the corner.

Aitken was even-tempered, saying, "I told the team that if they gave of their best they would win. It is nice to jump a couple of places in the table, but it is important to remember that there are more places to be jumped in the future."

The Aberdeen supporters at last gave way to jubilation, their songs celebrating both this outcome and the feats of Willie Miller.

Rumour factory turns up heat on Graham

Simon Wilde finds a manager refusing to be drawn after Arsenal are held by Leicester City

THE managerial sands continue to shift uneasily beneath George Graham. Another Saturday brought fresh rumours of his imminent departure and another poor result, this time a 1-1 draw against the bottom team in the FA Carling Premiership, thus extending to seven Arsenal's run of league matches at Highbury without a win.

After the match, Graham denied any knowledge of a statement by Garth Crooks, the former Tottenham Hotspur player and players' union representative, on Greater London Radio, that he had heard from an "insider" at Highbury that Graham would this week either resign or be dismissed as manager.

When journalists tried to return to the subject of Graham's future during the post-match press conference, the manager reiterated his denial, and as good as walked out rather than continue to discuss the matter. A subsequent statement issued by Ken Friar, the Arsenal managing director, that "there is no truth in the rumour that Mr Graham has resigned", failed to address Crooks's remarks and did nothing to quash speculation.

Crooks was not impressed, either. "I get the feeling what was coming out of Arsenal last night was rather unconvincing ... [and that Arsenal] should really have these rumours quashed unreservedly," he said yesterday.

Little has gone right this season for Graham, who is awaiting the results of an FA Premier League inquiry into alleged transfer irregularities and whose team has surrendered interest in all competitions bar the Cup Winners' Cup. He can take heart, though, from Paul Merson, his midfield player, who has seemingly overcome a far greater personal crisis.

Merson, in his first league appearance at Highbury since a three-month lay-off to tackle drink, drug and gambling problems, played beautifully. Conditions could hardly have been worse: the weather was foul, the opposition intent on attrition, and Selley was taken off on a stretcher with a broken leg in the ninth minute after a collision with Roberts.

Merson transcended all these things. His pace was good, his touch exquisite. He linked imaginatively with Kiwomya on the left, made two or three telling runs at goal, and stroked home Arsenal's only goal, in the 52nd minute, with a delightful volley from McGoldrick's cross. Two minutes later, Poole's save deprived him of a second.

The reaction of the crowd, as it dawned that they were witnessing a man exploring an art he must have feared he had lost for ever, was touching. Merson left the pitch looking baffled that all his good work had not brought victory, but he raised his arms to applaud the crowd and, eagerly, they returned the gesture.

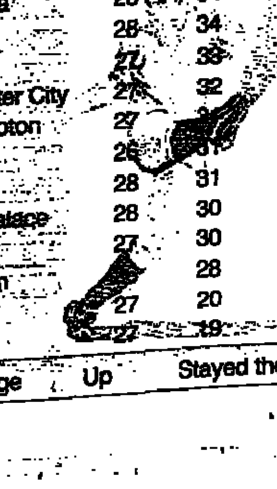
Draper, who bustled past two defenders to drive home Leicester's equaliser with 11 minutes remaining, similarly towered over his own colleagues, although in a less skilful manner. He was one of five players booked.

With better finishing, Arsenal would have won by a hatful, but with their midweek commitments in Italy taking their toll, Leicester finished the stronger. However, a draw at Highbury, worthy enough in itself, was scarcely enough. Mark McGhee, their manager, said that he had torn a strip off his players in the dressing-room, questioning their commitment to the contest, their club's plight, and each other.

Judging by Graham's remarks, one suspects that he had not just done the same, although they could do with relocating their purpose. Indeed, Graham seemed blasé about Arsenal's failure to take three points, curiously cheerful about their recent misfortunes. Perhaps he knows something we do not.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — N Winterburn, A Adams, A Linighan, L Dixon — I Selley (sub: M Keown, 8min), P Merson, J Jensen (sub: R Parlour, 87), E McGoldrick — J Hartson, C Kiwomya.
LEICESTER CITY (4-4-2): K Poole — M Whitlow, C Hill, R Smith (sub: M Galloway, 64), S Grayson — L Philpott (sub: N Lewis, 70), S Thompson, M Draper, J Lawrence — I Roberts, M Robins.
Referee: G Poll

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE



		Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Blackburn	28	62	+36	LWDLW
2	Manchester Utd	28	60	+30	DWDWW
3	Newcastle	28	51	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	Liverpool	27	48	+24	WLDDD
5	Nottm Forest	28	46	[illegible]	[illegible]
6	Tottenham	27	45	+7	WWLWD
7	Leeds	26	39	+6	DDWDD
8	Sheffield Wed	28	39	+1	DDWWL
9	Wimbledon	27	36	-15	WWLDL
10	Norwich	27	35	-4	LLDLD
11	Aston Villa	28	34	+2	WWWLW
12	Arsenal	28	34	-1	DWDLD
13	Chelsea	27	33	-3	DDLDD
14	Manchester City	27	32	-9	DDLDL
15	Southampton	27	[illegible]	-5	DDDDD
16	QPR	26	31	-6	WLLWD
17	Coventry	28	31	-18	DLDDW
18	Crystal Palace	28	30	-7	WLDWL
19	Everton	27	30	-9	DWDLW
20	West Ham	[illegible]	28	-9	WLLLW
21	Ipswich	27	20	-26	WWDLL
22	Leicester	27	19	-21	LLWLD

Weekly change Up Stayed the same Down

Roeder's defence makes strong case

Watford	2
Burnley	0

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

GLENN ROEDER knows a bit about defending. Not the bump and thump, hump and hope variety, more pickpocket precision followed by concise passes into midfield or caressed, long-distance deliveries further forward. The type that brought him six England B caps and a reputation as one of the most elegant centre backs of his time.

Roeder, 39, the Watford manager, is thus more appreciative than most of his side's eight consecutive matches without conceding a goal, equalling a 46-year-old club record. At Vicarage Road on Saturday, downwardly mobile Burnley rarely looked capable of disrupting Watford's serene progress.

Even a ploughed field that masqueraded as a pitch, after surviving two inspections, could not prevent them from stretching their unbeaten sequence to nine matches and confirming their transformation from sad cannon-fodder to play-off contenders in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division.

Defence is the best form of attack, as is constantly drummed into starry-eyed youngsters and wizened professionals, and Roeder can be excused a smirk of satisfaction in the glow of the moment. Bring on Crystal Palace, from the FA Carling Premiership, in the FA Cup fifth round on Saturday; the worry is entirely theirs.

"The secret? I'm not quite sure," Roeder said in response to the inevitable question. "If I knew, I would can it and sell it, and I wouldn't be a football manager." Roeder had the chance to become "minder" to Paul Gascoigne, after his fretful friend's move to Lazio in 1992, but instead chose the relative calm of Gillingham's struggle for Football League existence. The men from Kent hung on, just, in 91st place.

Watford have proved equally awkward to inspire since 1993, when Roeder succeeded Steve Perryman as manager. Yet if he can complement his miserly defence with an all-action No 9 — "not a big lump, with no mobility, but someone with skill and presence" — then his intricate jigsaw will take another step nearer completion.

With Hessenthaler absent because of injury on Saturday, Roeder discarded the midfield diamond for his oft-used five-strong rearguard. Even on a skid-pan of a surface, the central defensive trio of Foster, 6ft 4in, Millen, 6ft 2in, and Holdsworth, 6ft 1in, proved agile and able.

Ramage dived amid the flying boots to head Watford ahead in the 52nd minute. Burnley's first-half promise was swiftly silenced, and Bazeley's emergency conversion from full back to forward reaped a fourth goal in successive matches. Payne's harsh dismissal, for two cautionable fouls, mattered not an iota.

WATFORD (5-3-2): K Miller — G Lawn, C Foster, K Millen, D Holdsworth, N Gibbs — G Porter, C Ramage, D Payne — D Bazeley, J Moralee (sub: N Jemson, 70min).
BURNLEY (4-4-2): M Beresford — G Parkinson, J Pender, M Winstanley, D Eyres — A Harper, J Hoyland, G Harrison (sub: E McMinn, 70), L Robinson — J Mullin, A Heath.
Referee: A D'Urso

Gillingham facing another way out

Chesterfield	2
Gillingham	0

BY IVO TENNANT

AT CHESTERFIELD, where the rain has stair-rodded down since Christmas, they reckon that to start a match on their slough is an achievement in itself. For Gillingham, staying in existence is an advancement. When it comes to talk of crisis in football, they can bend your ear all day.

Gillingham have some touching stories to tell about going into administrative receivership. The most poignant involves Brian Moore, the commentator, who was once a director of the club. His reaction was to buy a season-ticket, even though he could not have been certain of watching anything at all.

Last week, Gillingham learnt that they will be able to carry on playing in the third division of the Endsleigh Insurance League until the end of the season. But not even Moore will be buying his pass for 1995-96 just yet. The directors no longer direct, the general manager was made redundant last week and any brave soul who wants to buy the club will be lumbered with paying off a bank loan of £800,000. Sir David Frost, Gillingham's most famous son, might balk at that.

Gillingham could yet leave the league by another means, namely finishing bottom. On this evidence, it is a possibility. Two goals down by half-time, they were prevented from further discomfort only by some excellent saves from Banks, a famous goalkeeping name on this ground.

Chesterfield, by contrast, are looking to a future in a higher division. Since Christmas, they have deployed a three-man forward line and have not been beaten. One of the trio, Lormor, put them ahead after 25 minutes with the second goal, a Cantona-style cross-cum-chip, coming from Law just before half-time.

Home of the crooked spire and one of the loveliest of first-class cricket grounds, Chesterfield could yet have a football club to add to the attractions.

CHESTERFIELD (4-3-3). A Beasley — N Law, L Rogers, D Carr, S Dyche — J Hewitt, T Curtis, P Robinson — K Davies, T Lormor, D Moss (sub: A Morris, 75min).
GILLINGHAM (4-4-2): S Banks — R Green, J Dunne, R Trott, P Watson — A Ramage, G Micklewhite, S Lindsey, N Smillie (sub: R Reinelt, 40) — A Foster, C Pike.
Referee: P Harrison

Liburd's double too much for Kettering

Boreham Wood	2
Kettering Town	1

BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE ingredients for an upset were plain to see at Meadow Park on Saturday. Wind and rain blasted down the ground, the pitch cut up in clinging clods, the "giants" of Kettering had a player sent off and the large visiting contingent in the crowd radiated a sense of unease throughout an enthralling FA Umbro Trophy second-round tie.

Boreham Wood, proving why they are runaway leaders of the Diadora League first division, duly brought down Kettering, of the Vauxhall Conference, with two excellently taken goals by Marc Liburd. Kettering, handicapped by the dismissal of Nick Ashby in the 28th minute, played with great heart and unwavering commitment even with ten men.

Ashby's dismissal came for a second bookable offence when he clattered Ashenden, having already been booked for dissent. Barry Knight, the referee, put eight other names in his book.

Kettering were rueing a miss by Alford, sliding a cross from the ever-willing Arnold past the post, when Liburd struck in first-half injury time. Gentle ran down the left and weighted his pass for Liburd, who curved a perfect finish past the advancing Gleasure.

Liburd's second goal, angled in to the far corner with equal aplomb, did not come until the 82nd minute. If Boreham Wood thought Kettering were finished, they were wrong. Graham carved open the defence for Stringfellow to score five minutes later, stopping the departing visiting supporters in their tracks and setting up a tense, drawn-out spell of injury time before a famous victory could be celebrated.

Afterwards a phalanx of policemen sprinted round the terraces to sort out shenanigans outside the ground. This after some despicable dunderheads had taken advantage of the first-half tension to start a punch-up behind a goal.

BOREHAM WOOD (4-4-2): M Taylor — B Fox, G Nisbet, W Harrigan, A Joyce — S Heffer, S McLean, J Shaw, S Ashenden (sub: D Hatchett, 70min) — M Liburd, D Gentle (sub: D Samuels, 76).
KETTERING TOWN (4-4-2): P Gleasure — G Reed, S Holden, N Ashby, S Clarke — P Brown (sub: I Stringfellow, 70), W Donald, R Taylor, A Thomas (sub: J Graham, 64) — C Alford, I Arnold
Referee: B Knight.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ARSENAL (0) 1 LEICESTER CITY (0) 1
Merson 52 Draper 78
31,373

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, J Jensen (sub: R Parlour, 87min), A Linighan, A Adams, E McGoldrick, P Merson, J Hartson, I Selley (sub: M Keown, 6), C Kiwomya.
Booked: Hartson, Keown.
Leicester City: K Poole, S Grayson, R Smith (sub: M Galloway, 64), C Hill, M Whitlow, M Draper, S Thompson, J Lawrence, L Philpott (sub: N Lewis, 71), M Robins, I Roberts.
Booked: Smith, Draper, Galloway.
Referee: G Poll.

ASTON VILLA (4) 7 WIMBLEDON (1) 1
Reeves 12 (og) Barton 11
Johnson 22, 26, 38 23,982
Saunders 48, 67 (pen)
Yorke 83

Aston Villa: M Bosnich, G Charles, S Staunton, S Teale, P McGrath, B Small, I Taylor, D Yorke, D Saunders, T Johnson, A Townsend.
Wimbledon: H Segers, W Barton, G Elkins, V Jones, A Reeves, M Harford (sub: C Perry, 72min), A Thorn, O Leonhardsen, E Ekoku, D Holdsworth (sub: J Goodman, 72), K Cunningham.
Referee: B Hill.

CHELSEA (0) 1 TOTTENHAM (1) 1
Wise 79 Sheringham 8
30,812

Chelsea: D Kharine, S Clarke, S Minto, F Sinclair, J Spencer, M Stein, G Peacock (sub: P Furlong, 46min), D Wise, E Newton, D Rocastle (sub: G Hoddle, 66), D Lee.
Booked: Wise.
Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, J Edinburgh, G Popescu, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, N Barmby, D Anderton, E Sheringham, D Howells, J Klinsmann, S Campbell.
Booked: Edinburgh.
Referee: P Durkin.

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0 COVENTRY (0) 2
11,871 Jones 75
Dublin 85

Crystal Palace: N Martyn, D Gordon, G Southgate, C Coleman, I Dowie, J Salako, R Shaw, R Bowry (sub: A Preece, 68min), D Pitcher, D Patterson, G Ndah.
Booked: Salako.

Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, B Borrows, S Morgan, S Pressley, D Rennie, S Flynn (sub: J Darby, 66), P Ndlovu, A Pickering, D Dublin, M Marsh, C Jones.
Booked: Ogrizovic, Dublin, Darby.
Referee: M Bodenham.

LIVERPOOL (0) 1 QPR (1) 1
Scales 71 Gallen 5
35,996

Liverpool: D James, R Jones, P Babb, N Ruddock, J Scales, S Bjornebye (sub: M Walters, 51min), S McManaman, M Thomas (sub: J Redknapp, 66), J Barnes, I Rush, R Fowler.
Booked: Ruddock.
Queens Park Rangers: A Roberts, D Bardsley, C Wilson, A McDonald, A Impey, I Holloway, S Barker, R Brevett, D Maddix, K Gallen, L Ferdinand.
Referee: D Gallagher.

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 0 MANCHESTER UTD (0) 3
26,368 Ince 58
Kanchelskis 74
Cole 77

Manchester City: A Dibble, N Summerbee, D Brightwell, M Gaudino, K Curle, A Kernaghan, I Brightwell, P Walsh, U Rösler, G Flitcroft, P Beagrie (sub: N Quinn, 63min).
Booked: I Brightwell, Rösler, Quinn.
Manchester United: P Schmeichel, D Irwin, S Bruce, L Sharpe, G Pallister, P Ince, B McClair, R Giggs, A Kanchelskis (sub: D May, 82), A Cole, P Neville (sub: P Scholes, 53).
Booked: Ince.
Referee: P Don.

NEWCASTLE UTD (0) 2 NOTTM FOREST (0) 1
Fox 47 J Lee 74
R Lee 73 34,471

Newcastle United: P Srnicek, M Hottiger, J Beresford, B Venison, D Peacock, S Howey, R Fox, R Lee, P Beardsley, P Kitson, K Gillespie (sub: P Bracewell, 73min).
Booked: Gillespie.
Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Phillips, S Gemmill, S Collymore, S Stone, I Woan, A I Haaland (sub. J Lee, 73min).
Booked: Pearce, Cooper.
Referee: K Morton.

NORWICH CITY (1) 2 SOUTHAMPTON (2) 2
Newsome 37 Hall 33
Ward 90 Magilton 35
18,361

Norwich City: A Marshall, C Bradshaw, S Prior (sub: N Adams, 78min), J Newsome, M Bowen, J Goss, I Crook, M Sheron, R Ullathorne (sub: D Sutch, 45), M Ward, D Eadie.
Booked: Bradshaw.
Southampton: B Grobbelaar, J Kenna, J Magilton, R Hall, K Monkou, M Le Tissier (sub: D Hughes, 76), N Shipperley, N Maddison, N Heaney, J Dodd, T Widdrington.
Booked: Dodd.
Referee: R Hart.

Postponed: Leeds United v Ipswich Town.

Yesterday

BLACKBURN RVRS (2) 3 SHEFFIELD WED (1) 1
Sherwood 26 Waddle 32
Atkins 35 22,223
Shearer 66

Blackburn Rovers: R Mimms, A Wright, T Sherwood, C Hendry, A Shearer, C Sutton, R Slater, H Berg, M Atkins, P Warhurst, I Pearce.
Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, D Petrescu (sub: M Williams, 50min), C Waddle, M Bright, J Sheridan (sub: G Whittingham, 68), A Pearce, C Bart-Williams, A Sinton (sub: C Woods, 45), D Walker.
Sent off: Pressman, 44. Booked: Bright, Sheridan, Bart-Williams.
Referee: P Jones.

Coca-Cola Cup

Semi-final, first leg

SWINDON TOWN (1) 2 BOLTON WDRS (1) 1
Thorne 38, 76 Stubbs 10
15,341

Swindon Town: N Hammond, M Robinson, E Murray, W O'Sullivan, L Nijholt, S Taylor, K Horlock, K Beauchamp, J A Fjortoft, P Thorne, M Ling.
Sent off: Robinson, 87. Booked: Nijholt.
Bolton Wanderers: K Branagan, S Green, J Phillips, J McAteer, S Coleman, A Stubbs, G Lee, R Sneekes, M Paatelainen, O Coyle (sub: J McGinlay, 70min), A Thompson.
Booked: McAteer, McGinlay.
Referee: P Alcock.

Ward: scored for Norwich

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
Shearer (Blackburn)	25	2	1	28
Fowler (Liverpool)	21	2	0	23
Ward (Norwich) (17 for Crewe)	14	9	0	23
Le Tissier (Southampton)	13	8	0	21
Sutton (Blackburn)	14	5	1	20
Wright (Arsenal)	12	3	5	20
Klinsmann (Tottenham)	13	6	0	19
Cole (Man Utd) (15 for Newcastle)	11	2	4	17
Ferdinand (QPR)	14	2	0	16

COCA-COLA CUP

THE surprise in yesterday's all-first division Coca-Cola Cup semi-final was Jan-Aage Fjortoft's inability to add to his tally. The Swindon Town striker is top scorer in the competition with eight goals. The second semi-final between Liverpool and Crystal Palace takes place on Wednesday, February 15, with the second leg a week later at Selhurst Park.

SWINDON TOWN
Semi-final: (1st leg) Swindon 2 Bolton 1. (2nd leg) Feb 22. 5th rnd: Swindon 3 Millwall 1. 4th rnd: Swindon 2 Derby 1. 3rd rnd: Brighton 1 Swindon 1. replay Swindon 4 Brighton 1 2nd rnd: (1st leg) Swindon 1 Charlton 3. (2nd leg) Charlton 1 Swindon 4 aet. 5-4 agg.

Coca-Cola Cup stats 1994/5

	P	Gl	B/S
Beauchamp *	7	-	-
Berkley *	1	-	-
Bodin	6	-	1
Culverhouse	1	-	-
Digby	5	-	-
Fjortoft	7	8	-
Hammond	2	-	-
Horlock	4	-	-
Kilcline	3	-	-
Ling *	6	-	-
Murray	1	-	-
Mutch *	3	2	-
Nijholt	7	-	1
O Sullivan	4	-	-
Robinson	7	-	3/1
Scott	5	3	1
Taylor	4	-	-
Thorne	1	2	-
Thomson	5	1	1
Totals	-	16	7/1

Goals 17: plus 1 own goal

BOLTON WANDERERS
Semi-final: (1st leg) Swindon 2 Bolton 1; (2nd leg) Feb 22. 5th rnd: Bolton 1 Norwich 0 4th rnd: West Ham 1 Bolton 3. 3rd rnd: Sheffield Utd 1 Bolton 2.
2nd rnd: (1st leg) Ipswich 0 Bolton 3; (2nd leg) Bolton 1 Ipswich 0; 4-0 agg.

Coca-Cola Cup stats 1994/5

	P	Gl	B/S
Branagan	6	-	-
Coleman	4	-	-
Coyle *	2	-	-
De Freitas *	3	-	-
Fisher	2	-	-
Green	4	-	1
Lee	6	2	-
Lydiate	3	-	-
McAteer	5	1	1
McGinlay *	6	3	1
Paatelainen	6	1	-
Patterson *	3	-	-
Phillips	6	-	2
Sneekes	6	1	1
Spooner	1	-	1
Stubbs	4	1	-
Thompson	6	1	1
Totals	-	10	8

Goals 11: plus 1 own goal
* denotes appearance as sub

F.A. CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Blackburn	28	12	1	1	42	14	7	4	3	19	11	62	+36
2 Man Utd	28	12	1	1	27	3	6	5	3	24	18	60	+30
3 Newcastle	28	9	5	0	30	12	5	4	5	17	18	51	+17
4 Liverpool	27	8	5	1	25	7	5	4	4	21	15	48	+24
5 Nottm For	28	7	4	3	22	14	6	3	5	19	17	46	+10
6 Tottenham	27	8	3	4	22	18	6	4	4	23	20	43	+7
7 Leeds	26	7	4	2	20	11	3	5	5	14	17	39	+6
8 Sheff Wed	28	5	6	3	18	13	5	3	6	19	23	39	+1
9 Wimbledon	27	7	2	4	18	17	3	4	7	14	30	36	-15
10 Norwich	27	7	5	2	21	14	2	3	8	6	17	35	-4
11 Aston Villa	28	5	6	3	20	12	3	4	7	19	25	34	+2
12 Arsenal	28	3	7	4	16	16	5	3	6	15	18	34	-1
13 Chelsea	27	4	5	5	20	15	4	4	5	15	23	33	-3
14 Man City	27	5	5	4	27	20	3	3	7	8	24	32	-9
15 Soton	27	4	5	4	18	18	2	8	4	21	26	31	-5
16 QPR	26	6	2	4	23	18	2	5	7	16	27	31	-6
17 Coventry	28	4	5	5	12	18	3	5	6	15	27	31	-18
18 C Palace	28	3	4	7	9	15	4	5	5	12	19	30	-7
19 Everton	27	6	5	3	23	17	1	4	8	4	19	30	-9
20 West Ham	26	6	2	5	14	12	2	2	9	10	21	28	-9
21 Ipswich	27	3	2	9	19	27	2	3	8	10	28	20	-26
22 Leicester	27	3	4	6	16	19	1	3	10	9	27	19	-21

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

BARNSLEY (1) 2 TRANMERE ROVERS (1) 2
Rammell 6 Jones 13
Redfearn 49 Muir 62
5,506

CHARLTON ATH (0) 1 SUNDERLAND (0) 0
Whyte 57 12,380

GRIMSBY TOWN (2) 5 LUTON TOWN (0) 0
Dobbin 8 4,615
Gilbert 27
Woods 72
Watson 77, 85

NOTTS COUNTY (1) 2 SOUTHEND UTD (1) 2
Legg 15 Edwards 33
Matthews 76 Willis 90
6,768

PORT VALE (0) 1 WEST BROMWICH (0) 0
Guppy 83 10,751

READING (1) 1 DERBY COUNTY (0) 0
Kavanagh (og) 30 8,834

SHEFFIELD UTD (1) 1 STOKE CITY (1) 1
Starbuck 7 Peschisolido 25
13,900

WATFORD (0) 2 BURNLEY (0) 0
Ramage 52 9,297
Bazeley 71

WOLVERHAMPTON (1) 2 BRISTOL CITY (0) 0
Dennison 25 25,451
Kelly 61

Postponed
Oldham Athletic v Middlesbrough
Portsmouth v Millwall

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (0) 2 OXFORD UNITED (0) 1
Gouck 62 Rush 86
Quinn 78 5,206

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0 BRIGHTON (2) 3
5,247 Minton 22, 31
McDougald 49

BRENTFORD (1) 4 BRADFORD CITY (1) 3
Mundee 40 Robson 13
Taylor 64 Murray 61
Grainger (pen) 75 Power 73
Forster 86 6,019

CREWE ALEXANDRA (1) 2 BIRMINGHAM CITY (0) 1
Clarkson 31 Donowa 90
Murphy 63 6,359

PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (1) 2
Farrell 54 McCall 3
4,318 Nugent 85

ROTHERHAM UTD (3) 3 SWANSEA CITY (2) 3
Roscoe 17 Williams 25
Hayward 20 Pascoe 45
Davison 28 Hodge 81
2,858

SHREWSBURY TN (1) 2 WYCOMBE WDRS (0) 2
Spink 20 Stapleton 56
Taylor 58 De Souza (pen) 75
3,945

STOCKPORT CO (0) 2 CHESTER CITY (2) 2
Wallace 48 Preece 22
Beaumont 87 Dinning (og) 24
4,405

WREXHAM (1) 1 HUDDERSFIELD TN (0) 2
Bennett 10 Booth 57
5,894 Jepson 64

Postponed
Bristol Rovers v Cambridge United
Cardiff City v Leyton Orient
York City v Hull City

THIRD DIVISION

CARLISLE (1) 1 HEREFORD UNITED (0) 0
Gallimore (pen) 6 5,676

CHESTERFIELD (2) 2 GILLINGHAM (0) 0
Lormor 26 3,070
Law 45

COLCHESTER UTD (0) 0 ROCHDALE (0) 0
3,080

DARLINGTON (0) 1 WIGAN ATHLETIC (1) 3
Worboys 67 Rodwell 12
1,780 Benjamin 57
Lyons 82

NORTHAMPTON TN (0) 2 PRESTON NE (0) 1
Burns 57 Smart 64
Smith 62 5,195

Postponed
Bury v Barnet
Exeter City v Walsall
Hartlepool United v Doncaster Rovers
Lincoln City v Fulham
Mansfield Town v Scunthorpe United
Torquay United v Scarborough

SENDINGS OFF
First division
Garnett (Tranmere) 40
Gridelet (Southend) 29
Bressington (Southend) 37
Williams (Derby) 74
Payne (Watford) 72

GOALSCORERS

First division: 23 Fjortoft (Swindon Town). 19 Aldridge (Tranmere Rovers). 18 Whyte (Charlton Athletic). 16 Malkin (Tranmere Rovers) 15 Hendrie (Middlesbrough); McGinlay (Bolton Wanderers); Creaney (Portsmouth); Kelly (Wolverhampton Wanderers). 14 Foyle (Port Vale). 13 McCarthy (Oldham Athletic); Woods (Grimsby Town); Gray (Sunderland); Scott (Stoke City, 12 for Swindon Town). 10 Paatelainen (Bolton Wanderers); Bull (Wolverhampton Wanderers).

Second division: 30 Bennett (Wrexham). 21 Booth (Huddersfield Town); Stewart (Bristol Rovers). 19 Forster (Brentford); Moody (Oxford United). 18 Taylor (Brentford); Goater (Rotherham United). 17 Corazzin (Cambridge United); Jepson (Huddersfield Town). 15 Barnes (York City); Stant (Cardiff City); Butler (Cambridge United). 14 Ellis (Blackpool); Miller (Bristol Rovers). 13 Jewell (Bradford City).

Third division: 18 Reeves (Carlisle). 17 Freedman (Barnet). 16 Wilkinson (Mansfield Town); Lightbourne (Walsall). 14 Carter (Bury). 13 White (Hereford United). 12 Pike (Gillingham); Whitehall (Rochdale); Wilson (Walsall). 11 Hadley (Mansfield Town); Whitton (Colchester United); Cooper (Barnet). 10 Marsh (Walsall); Hancox (Torquay United), Worboys (Darlington).

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

CELTIC (1) 2 HIBERNIAN (1) 2
Collins 5 McGinlay 29
Falconer 48 McGraw 80
24,284

HEARTS (2) 2 KILMARNOCK (2) 2
Millar 29 Maskrey 5
Mackay 31 Brown 18
8,374

Postponed
Dundee United v Falkirk
Partick Thistle v Motherwell

Yesterday

ABERDEEN (0) 2 RANGERS (0) 0
Dodds 57 (pen) 20,000
Shearer 88

FIRST DIVISION

AYR UNITED (1) 1 DUNDEE (0) 0
Moore 4 2,042

ST MIRREN (0) 1 RAITH ROVERS (2) 2
McWhirter 89 Crawford 4, 45
2,600

Postponed
Dunfermline v Stranraer
St Johnstone v Hamilton

SECOND DIVISION

CLYDE (0) 1 BERWICK (2) 3
McKenzie 56 Reid 25
950 Neil 39
Hawke 47

DUMBARTON (3) 4 MEADOWBANK (0) 0
Mooney 8 749
Ward 16
Gibson 33
McGarvey 56

STIRLING (0) 0 G MORTON (1) 3
1,249 Lilley 39
McInnes 52
Mahood 61

Postponed
Brechin v Stenhousemuir
Queen of South v East Fife

THIRD DIVISION

ALBION (0) 1 CALEY THISTLE (1) 2
McBride 82 MacMillan 28
274 Lisle 84

ARBROATH (0) 0 QUEEN'S PARK (0) 0
396

(abandoned, 54min)

ROSS COUNTY (2) 6 ALLOA (0) 0
Macleod 8, 14 1,814
Grant 53, 86
Connelly 59
Duff 87

Postponed
Cowdenbeath v East Stirling
Forfar v Montrose

SENDINGS OFF
Third division
Bennett (Alloa) 41
Newbigging (Alloa) 44

CONFERENCE

DOVER ATHLETIC (0) 0 NORTHWICH VIC (0) 0
954

(abandoned, 31min)

Postponed
Halifax Town v Dagenham and Redbridge
Stafford Rangers v Bromsgrove

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Macclesfield	27	11	3	2	29	11	7	2	2	22	12	59
2 Southport	29	9	2	3	38	16	6	3	6	13	19	50
3 Altrincham	27	7	1	7	27	22	7	4	1	31	13	47
4 Woking	27	6	5	2	29	18	7	2	5	20	22	46
5 Halifax	25	9	2	1	34	9	4	4	5	16	22	45
6 Gateshead	30	8	3	4	20	10	5	3	7	22	30	45
7 Kidderminster	30	6	4	5	23	15	6	4	5	28	28	44
8 Kettering	28	8	3	3	23	13	4	3	7	16	18	42
9 Farnborough	29	6	5	4	14	15	6	3	7	16	25	42
10 Bromsgrove	29	6	5	3	31	26	5	1	9	17	25	39
11 Stevenage	27	6	2	6	27	21	5	2	6	15	15	37
12 Bath	30	6	3	5	26	24	4	4	8	19	28	37
13 Northwich	26	4	6	4	24	19	4	5	3	22	18	35
14 Telford	25	8	5	0	21	7	1	3	8	11	23	35
15 Runcorn	28	6	5	2	24	19	3	2	10	17	36	34
16 Stalybridge	29	7	1	5	19	19	2	5	9	30	35	33
17 Welling	27	5	3	7	22	27	4	3	5	18	25	32
18 Merthyr	25	7	3	5	28	22	1	3	6	10	21	30
19 Dover	27	3	8	2	15	12	3	4	7	13	21	30
20 Dag & Red	29	4	4	7	16	26	3	4	7	14	26	29
21 Yeovil	28	4	3	7	18	19	2	5	7	13	27	25
22 Stafford	28	2	2	8	17	22	3	6	7	19	36	23

Yeovil deducted 1 point

GOALSCORERS

Scottish Premier: 17 Coyne (Motherwell). 14 Hateley (Rangers). 12 O'Neil (Hibernian). 11 Jackson (Hibernian); Robertson (Hearts). 10 Collins (Celtic); Dodds (Aberdeen). 9 Laudrup (Rangers); Booth (Aberdeen); Nixon (Dundee United). 8 Maskrey (Kilmarnock); Shearer (Aberdeen). 7 Clark (Falkirk). 6 Arnott (Motherwell), Brewster (Dundee United).

First division: 21 Petrie (Dunfermline). 18 O'Boyle (St Johnstone). 17 Britton (Dundee). 16 Dalziel (Raith); Duffield (Hamilton); Smith (Airdrie). 12 French (Dunfermline). 11 Lawrence (Airdrie); Crawford (Raith); Shaw (Dundee). 10 Cooper (Airdrie); Cameron (Raith); Graham (Raith).

Second division: 13 Scott (East Fife). Hawke (Berwick) 12 Lilley (Greenock Morton). 11 Mooney (Dumbarton). 10 Irvine (Berwick); Alexander (Greenock Morton). 9 Watters (Stirling); McInnes (Stirling); Taggart (Stirling). 8 Dickson (Clyde); Rajamaki (Greenock Morton); Steel (Stenhousemuir); Bailey (Meadowbank). Mathieson (Stenhousemuir).

Third division: 24 Yardley (Cowdenbeath). 16 Kennedy (Montrose). 14 McGlashan (Montrose). 11 Grant (Ross County). 10 Bingham (Forfar) 9 McPherson (Ross County). 8 McCormick (Forfar); McAneney (Alloa); Moffat (Alloa). 7 Geraghty (East Stirling); Connelly (Ross County); Orr (Queen's Park). 6 Lee (East Stirling). Macleod (Ross County); Tosh (Arbroath)

EUROPEAN RESULTS

Pascal Nouma. the Paris Saint-Germain forward, is tripped by Pascal Pierre, of Metz, in a French League first division match. Metz won 2-0.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Seraing 3 Lommel 0. Beveren 2 Lierse 2; Anderlecht 3 Aalst 2; Charleroi 2 RWDM 0; Sint Truiden 1 Ostend 1; FC Mechelen 0 AA Ghent 0; FC Antwerp 2 Cercle Bruges 1; Standard Liège 1 FC Liège 0. Postponed: FC Bruges v Ekeren

DUTCH LEAGUE: FC Volendam 0 Willem II Tilburg 0; Heerenveen 1 Twente Enschede 4; Maastricht 0 Sparta 0. PSV Eindhoven 3 Vitesse 2; RKC Waalwijk 2 Utrecht 1; Groningen 2 NEC Nijmegen 2. Positions: 1, Ajax, played 19, 33 points; 2, Roda JC Kerkrade, 19, 30; 3, Twente Enschede, 19, 28; 4, PSV Eindhoven, 20, 27; 5, Willem II Tilburg, 21, 24.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Metz 2 Paris Saint-Germain 0; Lyons 3 Lille 1; Cannes 0 Rennes 1; Auxerre 1 Caen 1; Strasbourg 0 Montpellier 0; Monaco 1 Le Havre 2, Bastia 1 Nice 1, Sochaux 2 St Etienne 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Nantes	25	15	10	0	48	19	55
Lyons	25	13	8	4	40	23	47
Paris SG	26	14	5	7	38	25	47
Auxerre	26	9	13	4	41	25	40
Lens	25	10	10	5	32	23	40
Cannes	26	12	4	10	35	27	40
Le Havre	26	9	11	6	32	26	38
Strasbourg	26	10	8	8	34	29	38
Metz	25	10	6	9	34	32	36
Bordeaux	25	10	6	9	32	31	36
Monaco	26	8	9	9	27	24	33
Martigues	25	8	9	8	27	32	33
Rennes	26	8	8	10	30	41	32
St Etienne	26	8	6	12	32	33	30
Lille	26	8	6	12	19	33	30
Montpellier	26	5	11	10	25	38	26
Nice	26	6	7	13	26	38	25
Bastia	26	6	7	13	24	39	25
Caen	26	6	4	16	22	40	22
Sochaux	26	6	4	16	26	45	22

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bari 0 Juventus 2; Brescia 1 Foggia 0. Fiorentina 3 Genoa 1; AC Milan 1 Cagliari 1. AC Parma 1 Padova 0; AS Roma 3 Internazionale 1; Sampdoria 2 Reggiana 1: Torino 2 Lazio 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Juventus	19	13	3	3	32	20	42
Parma	19	11	6	2	31	15	39
Roma	19	9	7	3	26	13	34
Sampdoria	19	8	7	4	32	17	31
Lazio	19	9	4	6	37	24	31
Fiorentina	19	8	6	5	34	26	30
AC Milan	18	7	8	3	21	15	29
Cagliari	19	6	8	5	19	19	26
Torino	19	7	5	7	19	20	26
Bari	19	8	2	9	22	27	26
Inter	19	6	6	7	19	16	24
Foggia	19	6	6	7	20	25	24
Napoli	18	4	9	5	23	29	21
Cremonese	18	5	3	10	16	22	18
Genoa	18	4	5	9	20	29	17
Padova	19	5	2	12	18	41	17
Reggiana	19	3	3	13	14	26	12
Brescia	19	2	6	11	10	27	12

SPANISH LEAGUE: Atlético Madrid 3 Tenerife: Racing Santander 5 Barcelona 0. Positions: 1. Real Madrid, played 20, 31 points: 2, Deportivo La Coruna, 20, 28; 3, Barcelona, 21, 27

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Bolton	30	11	3	1	33	10	3	6	6	17	22	51	50
2 Wolves	29	11	2	2	31	13	4	3	7	21	26	50	52
3 Tranmere	30	12	2	1	37	16	2	6	7	11	19	50	48
4 Reading	30	6	6	3	16	11	8	2	5	19	16	50	35
5 Middlesbro	28	9	2	3	24	11	5	5	4	17	15	49	41
6 Watford	30	8	6	1	21	11	4	5	6	14	17	47	35
7 Sheff Utd	30	8	5	2	25	12	4	5	6	23	22	46	48
8 Grimsby	30	9	4	2	30	14	2	7	6	17	26	44	47
9 Barnsley	28	9	4	2	26	14	3	2	8	10	22	42	36
10 Luton	29	4	3	7	19	20	7	4	4	19	20	40	38
11 Millwall	28	7	5	2	24	14	3	5	6	12	18	40	36
12 Charlton	29	6	4	5	24	20	4	5	5	19	25	39	43
13 Derby	29	6	5	3	20	12	4	4	7	15	19	39	35
14 Oldham	29	7	5	2	23	13	3	3	9	16	25	38	39
15 Southend	30	8	2	5	17	15	2	4	9	14	39	36	31
16 Stoke	28	6	4	4	21	13	3	5	6	8	21	36	29
17 Port Vale	28	7	3	4	20	14	2	5	7	14	22	35	34
18 West Brom	30	8	2	4	14	10	1	5	10	11	26	34	25
19 Portsmouth	29	4	5	5	16	17	4	4	7	14	24	33	30
20 Swindon	27	6	5	3	21	18	2	3	8	15	25	32	38
21 Sunderland	29	2	9	4	14	15	4	5	5	14	14	32	38
22 Bristol C	30	6	4	5	17	19	2	2	11	8	22	30	25
23 Burnley	27	3	5	5	19	19	3	4	7	9	21	27	28
24 Notts Co	31	4	6	6	19	20	2	2	11	14	25	26	33

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Brentford	29	10	1	4	34	12	7	3	4	25	16	55	59
2 Huddersfld	29	9	3	2	25	14	6	6	3	26	20	54	51
3 Birmingham	27	8	4	1	30	8	7	4	3	19	11	53	49
4 Crewe	28	10	1	3	32	19	6	3	5	24	28	52	56
5 Wycombe	27	7	5	1	19	10	7	3	4	21	20	50	40
6 Blackpool	30	10	1	4	32	21	5	3	7	18	27	49	50
7 Oxford Utd	28	8	2	3	18	14	6	3	6	27	23	47	45
8 Hull	28	9	2	4	31	15	4	4	5	16	23	45	47
9 Bristol R	25	8	5	0	32	14	3	5	4	11	10	43	43
10 Stockport	28	8	2	5	26	18	5	2	6	17	19	43	43
11 Bradford	29	6	4	5	19	19	6	3	5	22	23	43	41
12 Wrexham	26	7	3	3	27	16	4	5	4	17	18	41	44
13 York	27	7	2	4	22	13	5	3	6	16	14	41	38
14 Swansea	27	5	6	2	13	7	4	6	4	22	22	39	35
15 Rotherham	28	8	3	3	26	18	1	5	8	12	20	35	38
16 Brighton	27	5	6	2	14	9	3	4	7	16	25	34	30
17 Shrewsbury	29	6	5	4	25	20	2	3	9	13	20	32	38
18 Peterboro	28	2	7	5	16	24	5	4	5	18	26	32	34
19 Cambridge	29	6	5	4	27	22	1	4	9	12	31	30	39
20 Plymouth	28	3	3	7	13	26	4	2	9	17	33	26	30
21 Bournemth	30	3	3	9	14	29	2	4	9	14	28	22	28
22 Cardiff	28	2	4	8	13	18	3	2	9	14	28	21	27
23 L Orient	28	5	4	5	15	12	0	1	13	7	31	20	22
24 Chester	29	3	4	8	17	32	0	3	11	6	24	16	23

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Carlisle	28	10	4	0	24	6	9	4	1	25	11	65	49
2 Chesterfield	27	8	4	2	16	6	6	3	4	21	20	49	37
3 Walsall	24	9	1	2	26	11	4	6	2	17	13	46	43
4 Doncaster	28	7	4	3	21	11	5	4	5	14	12	44	35
5 Bury	23	7	5	1	18	8	5	1	4	14	9	42	32
6 Scunthorpe	27	7	2	5	29	19	5	3	5	19	19	41	48
7 Colchester	27	5	5	5	19	22	6	3	3	18	16	41	37
8 Preston	28	8	1	4	21	11	4	4	7	14	18	41	35
9 Mansfield	27	6	2	5	26	17	6	2	6	26	23	40	52
10 Barnet	25	5	4	3	22	15	6	2	5	11	18	39	33
11 Torquay	27	7	5	2	24	17	3	3	7	13	19	38	37
12 Fulham	27	5	4	4	19	14	4	7	3	13	17	38	32
13 Rochdale	27	6	3	4	18	16	3	4	7	15	32	34	33
14 Lincoln	26	7	4	2	21	12	2	3	8	10	17	34	31
15 Darlington	26	5	3	6	19	19	4	3	5	13	15	33	32
16 Wigan	26	3	4	5	18	18	5	2	7	19	23	30	37
17 Exeter	25	5	3	4	16	18	2	2	9	4	20	26	20
18 Hereford	28	4	3	6	11	15	2	4	9	20	36	25	31
19 Gillingham	26	4	4	4	14	12	2	2	10	13	26	24	27
20 Northamptn	27	4	3	7	13	18	1	6	6	10	18	24	23
21 Hartlepool	25	5	2	7	17	24	1	4	6	6	15	24	23
22 Scarboro	26	1	4	7	12	21	3	2	9	15	27	18	27

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Rangers	25	8	3	1	19	6	7	3	3	24	15	51	+22
2 Hibernian	25	7	5	1	30	14	1	8	3	6	11	37	+11
3 Motherwell	24	5	5	3	20	17	4	4	3	16	19	36	0
4 Celtic	25	4	7	2	16	14	2	8	2	10	9	33	+3
5 Hearts	25	7	3	2	20	8	2	2	9	12	27	32	-3
6 Kilmarnock	25	6	3	3	16	10	1	6	6	15	24	30	-3
7 Aberdeen	25	5	6	2	20	12	1	3	8	10	20	27	-2
8 Falkirk	24	4	3	5	16	19	2	6	4	15	18	27	-6
9 Dundee Utd	23	4	5	2	19	13	2	3	7	10	24	26	-8
10 Partick	23	2	5	4	13	15	3	2	7	10	22	22	-14

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Dundee	25	8	3	2	26	12	6	2	4	18	15	47	+17
2 Raith	25	7	5	1	24	15	6	3	3	18	11	47	+16
3 Dunfermline	24	8	1	2	24	6	4	7	2	21	18	44	+21
4 Airdrie	24	5	6	1	17	6	7	2	3	22	16	44	+14
5 St Johnstn	24	6	4	1	24	10	3	6	4	15	18	37	+11
6 Hamilton	24	7	2	3	19	14	2	4	6	7	17	33	-5
7 Clydebank	24	3	4	6	14	16	1	5	5	6	14	21	-10
8 Ayr	25	4	5	4	17	19	0	3	9	5	25	20	-22
9 St Mirren	25	3	4	5	12	14	0	6	7	8	25	19	-19
10 Stranraer	24	3	4	5	12	16	1	0	11	8	30	16	-26

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Stenhsmuir	22	5	6	1	14	8	5	3	2	14	11	39	+9
2 Dumbarton	23	8	2	2	27	10	3	3	5	10	15	38	+12
3 G Morton	23	7	3	1	19	7	4	2	6	12	14	38	+10
4 Berwick	23	8	2	1	16	8	3	2	7	21	26	37	+3
5 Clyde	23	4	4	4	22	18	5	2	4	15	13	33	+6
6 Stirling	23	5	1	5	16	13	5	2	5	15	17	33	+1
7 East Fife	22	6	1	5	25	19	3	3	4	7	15	31	-2
8 Queen of S	22	3	2	5	14	14	4	4	4	13	17	27	-4
9 Meadowbnk	23	4	2	5	11	10	3	2	7	15	23	22	-7
10 Brechin	22	3	1	7	12	19	1	1	9	4	25	14	-28

Meadowbank deducted 3 points

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Forfar	22	8	2	0	20	7	5	2	5	12	14	43	+11
2 Ross Co	23	6	1	4	28	17	6	4	2	16	8	41	+17
3 E Stirling	20	5	1	4	17	13	6	2	2	20	13	38	+11
4 Alloa	23	4	3	5	14	16	6	3	2	20	17	36	+1
5 Montrose	19	6	2	3	20	11	4	3	1	13	7	35	+15
6 Cowdenbth	22	3	4	3	15	15	7	1	4	21	12	35	+9
7 Caley This	22	3	5	2	17	18	5	2	5	18	19	31	-4
8 Queen's Pk	22	4	2	6	14	19	2	2	6	13	19	22	-11
9 Arbroath	22	0	3	8	3	17	3	1	7	19	27	13	-22
10 Albion	21	1	0	10	9	24	1	3	6	7	19	9	-27

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

Premier division: Accrington Stanley 0 Matlock 2; Barrow 1 Gainsborough 0; Boston 4 Horwich 0; Frickley 3 Chorley 3; Whitley Bay 5 Knowsley 3. Postponed: Droylsden v Buxton; Winsford v Spennymoor.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Marine	31	22	7	2	62	22	73
Morecambe	29	20	5	4	68	27	65
Guiseley	28	18	7	3	64	37	61
Boston Utd	29	13	8	8	52	30	47
Witton	30	11	12	7	40	36	45
Gainsboro	29	12	8	9	52	40	44
Hyde	27	12	6	9	45	39	42
Spennymoor	27	12	6	9	41	35	42
B Auckland	27	12	5	10	47	33	41
Barrow	28	13	2	13	46	46	41
Colwyn Bay	26	12	3	11	54	52	39
Buxton	30	11	6	13	42	44	39
Emley	28	9	9	10	43	47	36
Winsford	30	9	8	13	46	51	35
Chorley	30	9	6	15	47	64	33
Knowsley	28	7	9	12	43	50	30
A Stanley	28	7	8	13	29	53	29
Horwich	32	8	4	20	42	62	28
Frickley	27	6	9	12	35	51	27
Matlock	25	8	2	15	30	48	26
Whitley Bay	32	6	7	19	39	70	25
Droylsden	27	6	5	16	34	66	23

First division: Workington 1 Radcliffe 6, Worksop 1 Atherton LR 1. Postponed: Alfreton v Warrington; Bamber Bridge v Blyth Spartans; Caernarfon v Eastwood Town; Farsley Celtic v Mossley; Fleetwood v Harrogate; Goole v Gretna; Lancaster v Curzon Ashton; Netherfield v Congleton.

BEAZER HOMES

Premier division: Gloucester 1 Hastings 0; Sittingbourne 1 Worcester 2; Trowbridge 0 Solihull 0; Corby 1 Crawley 1. Postponed: Cambridge City v Burton; Dorchester v Hednesford; Sudbury v Gravesend and Northfleet

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Hednesford	25	18	5	2	62	27	59
Gloucester	27	17	4	6	56	26	55
Cheltenham	24	15	5	4	56	23	50
Dorchester	24	14	4	6	52	33	46
Rushden	24	12	6	6	56	37	42
Leek Town	24	11	7	6	47	31	40
Gresley Rovers	24	11	5	8	45	42	38
Worcester	26	10	7	9	28	24	37
Halesowen	27	9	8	10	52	46	35
Burton	22	9	8	5	29	25	35
Cambridge	25	10	5	10	32	39	35
Gravesend	23	8	7	8	22	28	31
Chelmsford	22	8	5	9	35	29	29
Solihull	25	6	9	10	27	41	27
Sittingbourne	26	7	6	13	28	43	27
VS Rugby	25	6	8	11	28	39	26
Crawley Town	26	7	5	14	35	54	26
Hastings	22	6	7	9	26	29	25
Trowbridge	23	4	9	10	25	35	21
Atherstone	26	4	9	13	25	43	21
Sudbury Town	23	5	6	12	27	48	21
Corby Town	25	2	5	18	23	70	11

Midland division: Bridgnorth 1 Newport AFC 0; Buckingham 2 Bedworth 1; Evesham 3 King's Lynn 1; Grantham 1 Leicester 1; Nuneaton 3 Armitage 1; Tamworth 2 Stourbridge 1 Postponed: Dudley v Bilston; Forest Green v Sutton Coldfield; RC Warwick v Hinckley; Redditch v Rothwell.

Southern division: Baldock 1 Havant 0; Burnham 2 Bury 1; Wealdstone 1 Witney 2. Postponed: Ashford v Weymouth, Bashley v Erith and Belvedere; Fareham v Clevedon; Fisher 93 v Waterlooville; Newport IOW v Braintree; Salisbury v Poole; Weston-super-Mare v Margate, Yate v Tonbridge AFC.

DIADORA

Premier division: Bishop's Stortford 0 Grays 1; Dulwich 1 Hendon 0; Walton and Hersham 1 Marlow 1; Wokingham 4, Molesey 1 (abandoned, 56min) Postponed: Bromley v Aylesbury, Hayes v Carshalton; Hitchin v Harrow; St Albans v Yeading, Sutton v Chesham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Hayes	25	16	7	2	43	20	55
Slough	23	12	7	4	48	33	43
Bromley	25	12	7	6	47	38	43
Dulwich	27	12	6	9	49	45	42
Enfield	24	11	8	5	51	31	41
Harrow	26	12	4	10	43	40	40
Carshalton	26	12	4	10	46	47	40
Aylesbury	20	12	3	5	44	22	39
St Albans	23	11	6	6	66	51	39
Yeading	24	9	8	7	44	41	35
Grays	27	8	10	9	38	41	34
Walton	23	8	8	7	48	41	32
Molesey	24	9	5	10	38	37	32
Purfleet	25	8	8	9	48	51	32
Hendon	26	7	7	12	33	44	28
Kingstonian	24	7	6	11	38	42	27
Hitchin	22	6	8	8	35	41	26
B Stortford	26	6	8	12	36	57	26
Sutton Utd	25	6	6	13	35	41	24
Chesham	23	6	5	12	37	48	23
Marlow	25	3	8	14	27	54	17
Wokingham	23	4	3	16	23	52	15

First division: Chertsey 3 Newbury 0, Wembley 2 Leyton 2, Wivenhoe 1 Tooting and Mitcham 0. Postponed: Dorking v Berkhamsted, Heybridge Swifts v Billericay; Ruislip Manor v Barking; Staines v Uxbridge; Whyteleafe v Maidenhead; Worthing v Basingstoke Second division: Oxford City 2 Croydon 3, Saffron Walden 2 Hemel Hempstead 2; Thame 0 Chalfont St Peter 2. Tilbury 2 Edgware 1; Ware 1 Metropolitan Police 1; Witham 3 Banstead 2. Postponed: Aveley v Malden Vale; Bracknell v Hampton; Hungerford v Barton, Leatherhead v Egham; Windsor and Eton v Cheshunt. Third division: Feltham and Hounslow 3 Cove 1; Harlow 3 Bedford 2; Leighton 4 Lewes 0; Northwood 3 Southall 2. Postponed: Collier Row v Canvey Island, East Thurrock v Hertford; Epsom and Ewell v Hornchurch; Harefield v Horsham; Kingsbury v Camberley; Tring v Flackwell Heath.

FA TROPHY

Second round: Altrincham 1 VS Rugby 1; Boreham Wood 2 Kettering 1; Colwyn Bay 1 Enfield 2; Gateshead 6 Rothwell 1; Gresley 2 Morecambe 3; Hyde 2 Telford 0; Kingstonian 0 Kidderminster 0; Runcorn 4 Leek 2: Welling 1 Ilkeston 1, Bath 1 Marine 2. Postponed: Ashton v Macclesfield; Farnborough v Rushden and Diamonds, Halesowen v Guiseley; Woking v Cheltenham; Yeovil v Stevenage

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 3 Ashfield 1; Pickering 3 Stocksbridge PS 1. Postponed: Belper Town v Hallam; Denaby v Lincoln; Glasshoughton Wel v Maltby MW; Hucknall v Ossett Town; Liversedge v Brigg; North Ferriby v Pontefract Col; Ossett Albion v Arnold, Sheffield v Thackley.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Chippenham v Taunton; Bridport v Crediton; Bristol Manor Farm v Frome; Mangotsfield v Bideford; Odd Down v Torrington; Tiverton v Calne; Westbury v Elmore; Barnstaple v Saltash.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss 9 Histon 2; Felixstowe 4 Soham 0; Harwich and Parkeston 2 Newmarket 2; Stowmarket 3 Fakenham 5; Tiptree 3 Haverhill 0. Postponed: Great Yarmouth v Wisbech; Lowestoft v Hadleigh; March v Sudbury; Watton v Woodbridge.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Kidsgrove 2 Eastwood Hanley 2: Nantwich 10 Skelmersdale 0, Penrith 1 Bradford Park Avenue 3. Postponed: Bacup v Prescot, Bootle v Glossop North End; Clitheroe v Burscough; Darwen v Maine Road; Holker Old Boys v Trafford; Newcastle v Rossendale; Salford v Chadderton; St Helens v Blackpool.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Durham 1 Peterlee 3, Eppleton CW 4 Ferryhill 3, Guisborough 3 Prudhoe 1; Murton 2 Bedlington 4: West Auckland 0 Tow Law 2; Whitby 2 Seaham Red Star 4. Postponed: Billingham Synthonia v RTM Newcastle, Dunston FB v Hebburn; Northallerton v Consett; Shildon v Chester Le Street.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal 4 QPR 0, Charlton 2 Cambridge United 1; Chelsea 4 Norwich 1, Fulham 1 Gillingham 4; Watford 2 Leyton Orient 1, West Ham 4 Southend 2. Postponed: Millwall v Tottenham; Portsmouth v Ipswich Second division:: Crystal Palace 1 Wimbledon 4; Luton 3 Oxford 1. Swindon 1 Reading 1, Wycombe 0 Colchester 1. Postponed: Bournemouth v Bristol City; Brighton v Bristol Rovers. Tottenham v Brentford.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Southampton 2 Norwich 0.

ESSEX SENIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Premier division:, Ford 4 Eton Manor 0; Gt Wakering 0 Brentwood 0, Romford 4 Burnham Ramblers 1. Postponed: East Ham v Concord; Hullbridge Sports v Bowers; Southend Manor v Maldon.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Pegasus Juniors 0 Shortwood 2. Postponed: Cinderford v Brackley, Cirencester v Almondsbury; Highworth v Swindon Supermarine; Kintbury v Fairford; Tuffley v Abingdon. First division: Lambourn 4 Cheltenham Saracens 2: Milton 1 Hallen 0. Postponed: Cirencester v Easington Sports; Endsleigh v Yarnton, Headington Amateurs v Wallingford; Letcombe v Rayners Lane.

HEREWARD SPORTS: United Counties League: First division: Cottingham 1 Thrapston 2; Ford Sports 1 Blisworth 1; ON Chenecks 5 Harrowby 0; Shambrook 1 Irchester 0. Postponed: Bugbrooke v Olney; Daventry v Higham; Ramsey v Northampton Vanaid; St Ives v British Timken; Whitworths v St Neots.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Postponed: Barwell v Halesowen Harr; Boldmere St M v Stratford, Bolehall Swifts v Rushall O, Brierley Hill v Stapenhill; Knypersley Vic v Oldbury, Paget v Chasetown; Pershore v Shifnal; Rocester v Shepshed D; Sandwell Borough v Hinckley Athletic; West Midlands Police v Willenhall.

PARASOL COMBINED COUNTIES LGE: Premier division:, Eton Wick 5 Peppard 0; Cobham A 2 Hartley Wintney 1. Postponed: Ashford v Westfield, DCA Basingstoke v Viking Sports; Farnham v Cranleigh; Merstham v Ash.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Arundel v Burgess Hill; Crowborough v Langney Sports: East Grinstead v Southwick, Eastbourne v Ringmer, Oakwood v Hailsham: Peacehaven and Telscombe v Hailsham.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham 3 Sheppey 3; Cray 0 Tunbridge Wells 1: Crockenhill 1 Canterbury 1; Darenth Heathside 0 Ramsgate 1; Kent Police 0 Furness 2 Postponed: Beckenham v Slade Green; Greenwich v Herne Bay; Thamesmead v Deal; Whitstable v Folkestone Invicta.

SKOL MIDLAND FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Premier division: Wellesbourne 4 Coleshill 1 Postponed: Alvechurch Villa v Northfield; Chelmsley v Bloxwich; Highgate v Meir KA; Kings Heath v Handrahan; Knowle v Olton Royale; Upton v Sherwood Celtic; West Midland Fire Service v Studley.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham 4 Waltham Abbey 3; Croydon 2 Barkingside 1. Postponed: Beaconsfield v Brook House; Brimsdown v Tower Hamlets, Corinthian Casuals v Hillingdon; Hanwell v Willesden: Walthamstow Pennant v Haringey

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Ignatians v Wilsonians; Hamptonians v Chertsey; Tenisonians v Aloysians. Senior first division: Phoenix 5 Suttonians 2; Wokingians 2 Latymer 1. Postponed: Edmontonians v Salvatorians; Tiffinians v Kingsburians. Senior second division: Enfield 1 Manorians 6; Vaughanians 2 Camdenians 0, Ignatians R 0 Minchendenians 2; Southallians 2 Mill Hill 2; J Fisher 0 Westminians 0 Postponed: Meadonians R v Tollingtonians Senior third division: Hamptonians R 2 Glyn R 9; Grocers 8 Alpertonians 1. Postponed: Leyton v Greenfordians; Salvatorians v Chorleywood. Senior Cup: Cardinal Manning 0 Glyn 1.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Civil Service 0 Old Actonians 1; Winchmore Hill 0 East Barnet OG 2: West Wickham 2 Midland Bank 0; Polytechnic 2 Broomfield 0; Old Westminster 0 Kew Association 1; Lensbury 3 Alexandra Park 0; Ibis 3 Alleyn OB 1; Bank of England 0 Barclays Bank 0; Merton 1 Old Lyonians 9. Postponed: Old Stationers v Old Parkonians: Old Bromleians v Lloyds Bank: Reigate Priory v Brentham.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior First: Southgate County 3 Witan 4. Postponed: Old Owens v Nottsborough; Parkfield v Wandsworth Borough; Ulysses v Old Grammarians. Senior Second: Duncombe Sports 2 Hale End 7; Old Fairlopians 0 Albanian 5. Postponed: Ealing Association v Ucl Academicals; Hadley v Old Bealonians; Honourable Artillery Co v Old Finchleians. Senior Third: City Of London 4 Westerns 0. Old Colleians 2 London Welsh 2: Old Monovians 0 Pollygons 3. Senior Fourth: Old Simmarobians 2 Inland Revenue 0; Pegasus 8 Centymca 1.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Carthusians 2 Etonians 0; Wellingburians 1 Aldenhamians 4. First division: Haileyburians 0 Cholmeleians 6; Witleians 0 Wykehamists 3. Arthur Dunn Cup: Lancing 0 Chigwellians 0; Salopians 2 Malvernians 1.

NATIONAL

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Connah's Quay 4 Porthmadog 1; Rhyl 3 Newtown 2. Postponed: Bangor City v Holywell; Barry v Aberystwyth; Ebbw Vale v Cwmbran; Llanelli v Maesteg Park.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bangor City	22	18	2	2	61	16	56
Newtown	23	12	6	5	56	30	42
Ton Pentre	21	13	3	5	47	27	42
Cwmbran	24	13	2	9	41	35	41
I Cardiff	22	11	7	4	43	22	40
Afan Lido	20	11	5	4	31	25	38
Rhyl	25	11	4	10	51	44	37
Llansantffraid	23	11	3	9	43	36	36
Conwy	24	10	5	9	39	38	35
Connah's Q	24	9	6	9	39	37	33
Barry Town	22	8	8	6	41	37	32
Flint Town	23	10	2	11	44	43	32
Holywell	21	8	7	6	38	34	31
Caersws	24	8	6	10	40	41	30
Mold	25	9	2	14	40	57	29
Ebbw Vale	22	8	3	11	30	34	27
Porthmadog	24	7	5	12	39	42	26
Aberystwyth	23	2	10	11	31	49	16
Llanelli	25	3	4	18	40	85	13
Maesteg Park	23	1	4	18	14	76	7

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ballyclare 1 Carrick 3; Distillery 0 Ards 0 (abandoned, 45min), Glenavon 1 Coleraine 4; Linfield 3 Ballymena 0. Postponed: Crusaders v Bangor; Larne v Portadown; Newry v Cliftonville; Omagh v Glentoran.

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1½	2½	1½	1½	2½	1½	1½	1½	3	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	2	1½	1½	2½	2½

21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
2½	1½	2½	3	1½	1½	2	1½	1½	3	1½	1½	2	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	2½	1½

41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
2½	1½	2½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	3	1½	1½	2	2½	1½	1½

FORECAST: No claims are required with dividends likely to be moderate There were four jackpot draws, ten high-score draws and four no-score draws

In a pub basement, **Rachel Campbell Johnston** has a stab at the traditionally male preserve of boxing

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

"Boxing is the ultimate contact sport — a physical game of chess," the trainer, Pauline Dickson, tells Rachel Campbell Johnston, above. It is also the best all-round workout that you can get

Velvety hands in iron gloves

Most people have the same opinion of women's pugilism as Dr. Johnson had of women's preaching: "like a dog walking on his hinder legs… not done well; but you are surprised to find it done at all".

I was certainly surprised to find myself wending my way through Streatham one evening on the way to Casey's gym. "It's one of the only truly mixed boxing gyms in Britain," trainer Pauline Dickson, the General Secretary of the Women's International Boxing Federation (WIBF) told me. "Don't expect aerobics and dainty Lycra leotards." Descending into the basement of a pub, I was more concerned about finding myself "foxy boxing", engaging in topless bouts in a boozy backroom.

Instead, I found a long, low-ceilinged gym, papered with "big fight" posters, rank with the smell of sweat and leather. Above the throb of the hardcore techno I could hear the whine of resin-ed boots on canvas, the pounding of punchbags, the rattle of the speedball, and the brisk rap of leather skipping ropes.

Dave Cranston, a future middleweight champion, was sparring in a central ring. Solomon, a young South Londoner, was doing his "star jumps", springing upwards from a crouching position to spreadeagle himself in the air. Every muscle in a honed torso glistened, reflected in a myriad of wall mirrors.

I, and my fellow first-time boxer, 19-year-old Laura Gascoigne, realised we had a long way to go as Pauline took us through an exhaustive warming-up routine. Then we were ready to learn the boxer's stance: feet always hip-width apart, knee joints relaxed, weight thrown forwards, chin tucked behind the shoulder.

The power of a good punch comes from the ground, I was told. A good boxer can hit as crisply on the retreat as on the attack.

A couple of basic strokes, the quick left jab and the right cross, put together in various combinations, with some weaving and bobbing in between, and we were ready for shadow boxing, a pastime I had only previously witnessed among inebriated Glaswegians weaving home after closing hours.

But it was the sparring which was the real test. As a young man my father boxed for England, and ever afterwards has allayed his nostalgia by teaching his daughters to "pack a good punch". I was curious to test my childhood skill. Casey McCullum, the gym owner, mummified my hands in bandages and laced me into my gloves. "Go slow at first," Pauline advised, "a three-minute-round can seem like a long time".

Sandra Williams, an accountancy student whose gentle manner belied the dedicated pugilist within, paused to watch. "She's got pit-bull blood in her," I had been told. Myself, I felt more like a Pekingese going for the postman. The smiling Casey scarcely bothered to brush off my blows. "Keep your fists up… double left jab… now a right… stop retreating. Punch!"

Floating like an anchor and stinging like a moth, I soon decided I wasn't one of the new breed of warrior women. And it wasn't long before I was backpedalling — fast — with my breath burning in my throat.

But no sooner had I staggered from the canvas, than Pauline had me smothering the remains of my strength in a punchbag. Then back into the ring to work with "pads" — huge mittens held out on the trainer's hands. Even then, there was still skipping and a final long stretching session to go before the 90 minutes were up.

With Pauline's dedication it is little wonder that she has led such a successful assault on this traditionally male preserve. The WIBF was started in 1993 to legislate for women in the sport, to allow them not just to train but to fight competitively. A year ago there were just 70 women on its register; already there are over twice as many.

"Boxing is the ultimate contact sport — a physical game of chess," Pauline explained. "Most people only feel mentally and physically on edge when they take up expensive sports such as parachuting or motor racing. Here you can get the same adrenalin rush for only £3 a session."

Though the WIBF looks carefully at the medical implications of women boxing, Pauline shrugged off my questions about health. "I'm a bleeder," she informed me nonchalantly. "But I wouldn't mind if my nose was broken. If a man didn't like me just because of that then he wouldn't be the sort of man I wanted anyway.

"And it's a myth about getting cancer if you're hit in the breasts. I've only ever been bruised there once, and that was kick boxing. Besides, it's a waste of energy to punch a woman in the chest. You're hardly likely to knock her out like that."

Personally, I would be too vain and too squeamish to fight competitively. But I could well believe Pauline when she told me that a boxer's training was the best all-round workout you can get. I would go to Casey's again for that — and of course for the pleasure of admiring Solomon's gleaming abdominal "six pack".

FACT FILE

- ● Contact the Amateur Boxing Association (0181-778 0251) for a list of clubs in your area. Anyone can train at a boxing gym.
- ● To fight competitively, you must be male, aged 11 to 35 and have an ABA licence, for which you need to pass a medical.
- ● Women should send a SAE to: Pauline Dickson, Women's International Boxing Federation, UK, 1, Fayland Avenue, Streatham, London SW16 or call 0181-769 0645.

When friends can come to blows

PHILIP MEECH

Robert Crampton: he chose to enter the ring with a former professional boxer

Ever wondered what it is like to go into a ring against a man who knows what he is doing there?

On the face of it, Tony Breen and I ought to be well matched: he is 32; I am 30. He weighs a shade over 12½ stone; I am ten pounds heavier. A couple of Cruiserweights who ought to be middleweights. We are both about 5 feet 10 inches tall, and both reasonably fit.

The difference is, Tony Breen, now a businessman, used to box professionally, while I am a journalist who, until I met up with Tony, had never put on a glove. So: Tony knows what he is doing, and I haven't got a clue.

We meet at a small gym above a pub in Brixton, South London. Boxing is a primitive business, and the places where the work is done reflect this. The room seems to have been designed for the benefit of black and white photography: light floods in, posters peel, the heavy bag swings on its cable, a mound of gloves — and the ring.

Tony starts off with some skipping, each boot coming off the floor just the thickness of the rope. I try. I can skip, I discover, but only for about six great exhausting leaps.

Now, he shows me the punches against the bag. Left jab — "This is not used to any bad intent; it's to set your opponent up for bigger punches, create openings, unbalance him, keep him away from you," says Tony. Right cross — "A knockout punch, also the nosebreaker because it hits you full in the face." Left hook, right hook — "Off the jab, side of the face." Left uppercut, right uppercut. I do a couple. "They look good on the bag, but they're the most dangerous because they have the furthest to travel. Leave you exposed."

Tony does his own warm up. He puts thunderous blows into the bag, leather on leather, smack, smack, smack. I am aware that this sack hanging from the ceiling may not be the only punchbag in the room, and, in my stomach, I begin to feel something very close to fear. "Don't worry," pants Tony, snapping another vicious left hook into the bag. "I won't go taking any liberties with you."

You wouldn't expect someone who had just learnt the moves of chess to give a competent club player even a decent game, would you? Any fool can hit someone, the trick is to do it when, first, they know it's coming and, secondly, they are trying to hit you at the same time. There may only be six punches in boxing, but being a good boxer, being a bit tasty, is measured in how you master the 600 ways to avoid and then deliver these six punches.

Mind you, for the first three rounds, I only throw one: the left jab. This is because, to throw the big right hand as Lennox Lewis found out, is to leave yourself open to pain. So, I'm shuffling across the canvas, chucking out this left jab, and Tony is swaying out of the way. Once in a while, he hits me round the head. He hits me pretty much whenever he wants to, and my head is ringing. This is shocking because, despite the helmet I wear initially, despite the fact he's pulling his punches, despite the falsity of the situation, it hurts, physically and psychologically.

After three rounds, Tony gives me some advice. "You're throwing too many punches. Most of them are out of range, and you're not varying it enough." I try to calm down and pick a moment for the big right. I get it in once, and Tony whacks me back a couple of times, then sportingly backs himself onto the ropes. I follow and get in close enough to batter him a couple of times round the head. When he grimaces, I'm pleased.

Now, I gain a false confidence, and decide to unload my left uppercut. But my left arm is tired now, and the punch doesn't get more than three feet off the floor. "Nearly had me in the orchestras there," he says. We plod on for another couple of rounds, but I am exhausted. He reckons I threw 200 shots to his 20. Almost all of mine missed; almost all of his hit.

Losing your temper if someone hits you is natural. Walking away if someone hits you is natural. Hitting them back, without temper, is not natural. That is what boxers have to be trained to do.

"Novice fighters, they see a punch coming, they shut their eyes, they turn their head away. You have to short circuit that. Because by the time you've opened your eyes to see if there's another one coming, there is another one coming, and another one, and pretty soon you've had it. A good fighter can be taking a terrible battering, and still he's watching," says Tony. That is the hard part.

ROBERT CRAMPTON

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THE TIMES

Win a VIP trip to the Irish Grand National

The Jameson Irish Grand National is one of Europe's greatest horseracing days and today *The Times* in association with *The 1994 Official Cheltenham Festival Guide* offers readers the chance to experience it by winning a trip which includes the meeting on Monday, April 17, and two more full days of racing.

Organised by the Irish Tourist Board and the Irish Horseracing Authority, the prize includes return flights to Dublin for two people with Aer Lingus, accommodation in a premium Dublin hotel with full Irish breakfast and a self-drive hire car.

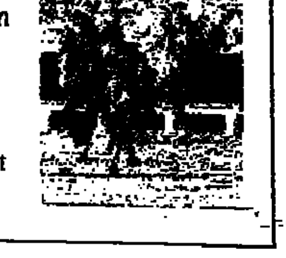
The winner and a companion will also be admitted to the reserved enclosure at Fairyhouse for each day of the Easter Festival, from April 17-19, including a race card each day.

For your chance to win simply answer the two questions.

1. What is the distance of the Cheltenham Gold Cup?
2. Which Irish jockey won the Ritz Club trophy in 1993 and 1994?

Send your answers on a postcard to: *The Times*/Irish Grand National Competition, 16 Whitefriars Street, London, EC88 2NG. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received by the closing date of February 24, 1995.

Ten runners up will each receive a pair of superb, advanced Olympus 10 x 24 Poro Prism binoculars. *The 1994 Official Cheltenham Festival Guide* is on sale for £2.95 at newsagents.



Mysilv's hard-fought success earns 10-1 quote for Champion Hurdle

Osborne stays loyal to Large Action

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

RARELY does a weekend pass without Jamie Osborne riding into the winner's enclosure after a valuable race. Osborne maintained the sequence most recently at Newbury on Saturday, although a metaphorical hangover accompanied the triumphs of Mysilv and Nakir.

With those horses bound for Cheltenham and the Champion Hurdle and Champion Chase respectively, Osborne, 27, faces some hard thinking as the season's highlight approaches. The choices confronting him are the envy of his colleagues.

Mysilv's hard-fought defeat of Trying Again in the Tote Gold Trophy earned this popular mare a 10-1 quote for the Champion Hurdle. Her credentials have hardened with each outing since she joined Charles Egerton in the close season. Yet Osborne is all but committed to Large Action.

"I'm in a fortunate position because Mysilv remains an option if something happens to Large Action in the build-up," Osborne said yesterday. "I put the stables of Oliver Sherwood, Henrietta Knight, Charlie Egerton and Simon Sherwood in front of the rest of the world. Theoretically, I can choose to ride anything from these four, so there are decisions to be made every day."

But, as he conceded, the stakes are never higher than at *Cheltenham: none more so than in the Queen Mother* Champion Chase. Travado, Coulton and Nakir, three of the jockey's regular mounts, could all clash in the two-mile championship. "That's the most difficult and complicated of them all, but the only way to handle it is not to worry about it," he said.

The picture will be more defined after Travado's next outing, although Coulton could be among his opponents in the Emblem Chase at Kempton a week on Saturday. Sherwood may also diffuse the conflict by skipping the Champion Chase with Coulton. "He'll also be entered for the Cathcart, the Grand Annual and the Mildmay Of Flete," the trainer said. "To a certain extent, Jamie's commitments would influence where we would run him."

Sherwood also confirmed that Callisoe Bay and Berude Not To, favourites for the Supreme Novices' and Sun *Alliance Hurdles respectively*, will not be out again before the Festival. These are two progressive horses which will not cause Osborne any loss of sleep. He will ride them both, along with Stompin, trained by Henrietta Knight, in the Triumph Hurdle.

Osborne carries the torch for England in the quest for riding honours at Cheltenham. Opposing him is an Irish quartet comprising Richard Dunwoody, Adrian Maguire, Charlie Swan and Norman Williamson. "This time three years ago I had one booked ride but ended up riding five winners," Osborne reflected. "At this stage my bunch of rides look far better than any I've ever had, but that often counts *for nothing.*"

Further to Osborne's Cheltenham prospects, Large Action is expected to complete his Champion Hurdle preparation at Nottingham on Saturday unless the ground is like treacle. Joining Large Action at Nottingham is Auburn Castle, an Arkle Chase candidate after his authoritative victory at Newbury on Friday.

Auburn Castle is to be entered for the Michael Seely Novices' Chase, named in commemoration of the former racing correspondent of *The Times*. "He did it well at Newbury but has some way to go before we can talk of him as a possible Arkle winner," Osborne said.

As for the Gold Cup, the jockey awaits the progress of Flashing Steel, who disappointed last time out at Leopardstown in December.

Meanwhile, David Nicholson has the Emblem Chase on the agenda for Viking Flagship after the eight-year-old slithered to the ground in the Game Spirit Chase on Saturday. Nicholson said yesterday: "I thought he came down because he landed in a hole on the course but, in hindsight, he may have made his own hole." Indeed, the rain-lashed ground deteriorated so badly that the last two races were abandoned.

The Emblem Chase, at Kempton a week on Saturday, is but one in a series of valuable Cheltenham pointers to be run at the Sunbury track.

Entrants for the Adonis Hurdle will have to contend with Nicholson's unbeaten juvenile, Silver Wedge. And the Sun Alliance Hurdle prospect, Putty Road, a recent Nicholson purchase from the Irish stables of Aiden O'Brien, makes his much-awaited British debut at Warwick a week tomorrow. The Festival countdown is well and truly on.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: POPPEA
(4.00 Hereford)
Next best: Counterbalance
(3.30 Hereford)

DAVID GILES

Mysilv, despite clouting the final hurdle, has enough in reserve to hold Trying Again's challenge in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury

Results from Saturday's four meetings..... Page 34

Newton Abbot an early casualty

TODAY's meeting at Hereford, which includes the first qualifier in *The Times* Rising Stars series, goes ahead after passing an inspection yesterday. But Newton Abbot, scheduled for tomorrow, has already been cancelled because the track is waterlogged.

Michael Trickey, the clerk of the course, said yesterday: "Since Friday we have had in excess of an inch and a half of rain and the water table is high anyway, so there is water standing on the course."

Heavy rain had put Hereford in doubt, but John Williams, the clerk of the course, said yesterday: "The going is heavy but the meeting is on. We have had a drying night with high winds and, provided there is no heavy rain overnight, we should race."

Prospects are not bright for tomorrow's other turf fixture at Leicester, which is subject to an 11.30 inspection this morning. Nick Lees, the clerk of the course, said yesterday: "The course is presently waterlogged in places. The forecast is for more rain so prospects do not look very good."

Plumpton, due to race today, was called off on Saturday, because of waterlogging.

Public interest no match for private purses

It is not just the horses who are feeling the pinch. As the National Hunt season completes its seventh month, nerve-ends are frayed as much between professionals and the media as between steeplechasers and their aching backs. Steeplechasers have it easy: there was no Yogi Breisner to rescue your correspondent, himself plagued with back problems last week.

It's a dog's life, or it becomes like that when racing's professionals vent their frustration on a media wholly attentive to their every whim. Perhaps the Jockey Club, in initiating official inquiries into these tantrums, could sentence the guilty parties to two weeks in the real world. They will discover a world where naval commanders are scuttled over errors of judgment: where similar sanctions face the captains of industry, commerce and politics. All because of a bad press.

Consider the case of Tony Hill, syndicate manager to the 8,000-strong Elite Racing Club. The club owns Mysilv, the so-called "people's horse", yet the people are denied access to information about Mysilv so that it can be "sold" by Hill through a premium rate telephone line. It may be his prerogative, but Hill, by his instructions of silence to Mysilv's trainer and jockey, did the sport a grave disservice.

Mysilv's chance in the Tote Gold Trophy was anything but a mystery. Her credentials, advertised by her victory at Cheltenham, could hardly have been more public. It is not as if Hill was in possession of genuine information on a horse contesting a newcomers' race. In his defence, Hill has acknowledged the differing circumstances and is to consult his members over whether his actions were appropriate.

Still to be resolved is the spat between Martin Pipe and Channel 4 Racing over the programme's handling of the Encore Un Peu incident. The horse, you may recall, was adjudged to have made insufficient effort to win a race at Warwick in November. Yet Channel 4, whose review of the incident was handled in the responsible manner demanded by their viewers, is not the only source of Pipe's scorn.

That extends to journalists seeking the worth of adverse rumours surrounding Valfinet, his unbeaten Arkle Trophy candidate. Never mind the punters who, on a daily basis, are backing Valfinet for the race on March 14. Instead, Pipe breaks his lengthy silence in his weekly column in *The Sporting Life*; he, too, wants to be paid for information. And sure enough, it emerges that Valfinet has banged a foreleg. His participation at Cheltenham is in doubt.

Pipe was "irritated" by these inquiries: he has yet to inform Valfinet's owners. He should, perhaps, try to determine where these rumours originate in order to prevent similar occurrences in future. David Nicholson, too, attacked the way television cameras were thrust in front of Tom Grantham after Mole Board's last-flight fall deprived the jockey of victory. So it goes on.

You would have thought we constituted the press pack from hell with our all-prying inquisitions and interrogations. Far from it, although it is too much to ask of some in the fraternity to keep the punters informed. Although the punters' role has been defined before, it is evidently worth making again. They pay for the whole show. In that sense, it is as much their game as anybody else's.

Those imposing their petty sanctions simply demonstrate contempt for a medium offering them far more favourable publicity than the sport really warrants. They do not realise their good fortune: they are kicking a gift horse in the mouth.

JULIAN MUSCAT

Racing commentary

HEREFORD

THUNDERER

2.00 Upward Surge
2.30 Fiftysevenchannels
3.00 High Low
3.30 Counterbalance
4.00 Shrulawn
4.30 Willie McGarr
5.00 FIRST CENTURY (nap)

Brian Beel: 2.30 Fiftysevenchannels.

GOING HEAVY SIS

2.00 ARROW MAIDEN CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,660: 2m 3f 110yd) (18 runners)

1 U3P-P0P MEGAMUNCH 87 (B Benton) R Juckes 7-11-10 ... N Juckes (7) 90
2 0P25-0F TULLYKYNE BELLS 73 (B) (L Snook) L Snook 6-11-9 ... D Gallagher 81
3 5/50-000 FLINTERS 45 (B) (Halewood Vintners) D McCain 8-11-8 ... D McCain (5) 84
4 200/F-P PUKKA SAHIB 7 (Miss B Swire) G Balding 8-11-8 ... R Arnold (7) –
5 3-56000 UPWARD SURGE 62 (Racing Club KCB) K Bailey 5-11-6 ... N Williamson 85
6 /6UP/ THE VATMAN COMETH 824 (J Upson) J Upson 10-11-4 ... R Supple –
7 004UP/P BOLT OF GOLD 46 (Mrs J Waring) L Waring 7-11-3 ... D Matthews (5) –
8 00/4F00- COLETTE'S CHOICE 359 (J Cooper) G Ham 6-11-3 ... D Fortt (5) ⊕
9 053-0PP LLAMA LADY 37 (B) (Mrs J Porter) M Muggeridge 6-11-3 ... D Meade –
10 00 DIP THE LIGHTS 55 (S Griffiths) S Griffiths 5-11-1 ... Mr J Jukes (7) –
11 00-F560 SHE KNEW THE RULES 11 (D Carey) D Carey 5-11-1 ... Guy Lewis (5) –
12 056F DRAGONS LADY 46 (Mrs D Vaughan) B De Haan 6-10-13 ... S McNeill 71
13 /0544 MISTRESS ROSIE 49 (Cider Press Ltd) Mrs J Retter 8-10-13 ... A P McCoy (3) 68
14 0P-P JUST FOR A LARK 32 (R Morgans) D Burchell 5-10-11 ... D J Burchell –
15 000060 LUCY TWO SHOES 63 (M Barraclough) M Barraclough 6-10-11 ... Ann Stokell –
16 LADY VALENSINA 6F (W Doyle Ltd) B Llewellyn 4-10-10 ... Mr J L Llewellyn (5) –
17 PINATUBO 9F (Pond House Racing) M Pipe 4-10-10 ... C Swan –
18 ADDED DIMENSION 4F (C Nash) C Nash 4-10-6 ... J R Kavanagh –

BETTING: 3-1 Pinatubo, 5-1 Lady Valensina, 6-1 Mistress Rosie, 7-1 Dragons Lady, 8-1 Lucy Two Shoes, Colette's Choice, 10-1 Tullykyne Bells, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS

MEGAMUNCH 42l 8th of 13 to Elburg in a novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, good) penultimate start. FLINTERS 69l 7th of 11 to Morgans Harbour in a novice hurdle at Southwell (3m 110yd, good) penultimate start. UPWARD SURGE 95l 9th of 10 to Wassl's Million in a conditional jockeys' novice handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) penultimate start. *DRAGONS LADY* 34½l 6th of 15 to Desmond Gold in a novice hurdle at Plumpton (3m 4f, soft) on penultimate start. MISTRESS ROSIE about 31l 4th of 8 to Sports View in a novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, heavy) on penultimate start. PINATUBO 4l 4th of 23 to Cape Pigeon in a seller at Chepstow (1m, good) on penultimate Flat start. *ADDED DIMENSION* 41l 10th of 11 to Power in a maiden at Lingfield (AW, 1m 4f) on the Flat.

Selection: DRAGONS LADY

2.30 THE TIMES RISING STARS HUNTER CHASE
(Qualifier: amateurs: £1,968: 3m 1f 110yd) (12 runners)

RUNNERS AND RIDERS - SEE FACING PAGE

3.00 LEDBURY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,360: 2m 1f) (9 runners)

1 113 HIGH LOW 49 (S) (M Lantanchi) W Jenks 7-12-0 ... T Jenks 90
2 44P-600 SUPER RITCHART 26 (G,S) (The Gradon Associates) B Palling 7-11-2 A P McCoy (3) ⊕
3 4-305 LOBILIO 40F (V) (P Leonard) D Burchell 6-10-6 ... D J Burchell 94
4 6-03402 FOX CHAPEL 11 (B,D,G,S) (B Hide) R Juckes 8-10-3 ... W Marston 98
5 50-0623 MAMALAMA 17F (F) (P Riddick) B Llewellyn 7-10-0 ... Miss E J Jones (7) 91
6 05545P/ SUREN 628 (G,S) (G Brown) Mrs J Retter 9-10-0 ... S Burrough –
7 U44504 PROJECT'S MATE 5 (B,CD,S) (R Brown) R Brown 8-10-0 ... Mr R Johnson (7) 90
8 301P4/ NANDA MOON 1010 (F) (In The Pink Partnership) A Barrow 8-10-0 ... B Powell –
9 243P-P0 PRINCETHORPE 34 (S) (G Farndon) B Cambidge 8-10-0 ... D Meredith (3) 80

Long handicap: Mamalama 9-13, Suren 9-11, Project's Mate 9-6, Nanda Moon 9-2, Princethorpe 8-10.

BETTING: 7-4 High Low, 11-4 Fox Chapel, 5-1 Lobilio, 6-1 Super Ritchart, 7-1 Mamalama, 16-1 Project's Mate, Suren, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

HIGH LOW beat Tight Fist 13l in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, soft) on penultimate start. LOBILIO 20l 5th of 16 to Challenger du Luc in a novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, soft). FOX CHAPEL 1l 2nd of 8 to Manner's Air in a handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, heavy). MAMALAMA 8½l 3rd of 9 to Beyond Our Reach in amateurs' handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, soft). SUREN 18½l 5th of 15 to Ask The Governor in a handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good) on penultimate start, April 1993. PROJECT'S MATE 10l 4th of 20 to Daily Sport Girl in selling handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to soft).

Selection: HIGH LOW

3.30 EBF TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) MARES NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(Qualifier: £2,762: 2m 3f) (5 runners)

1 1PF412 COUNTERBALANCE 9 (S) (Fools Have Horses) J McConnochie 8-11-10 J J Brown (7) 92
2 0P-2235 CARLINGFORD BELLE 5 (J Needham) J Needham 9-10-2 ... Richard Guest ⊕
3 31P-0P2 TUMBLED BRIDE 48 (S) (V Greenway) V Greenway 9-10-0 ... C Maude 92
4 6PF0 IN THE CHOIR 29 (Mrs R R Symonds) R Alner 7-10-0 ... A Maguire –
5 04/03R ALAMO SCOUT 18 (R Hughes) P Burgoyne 8-10-0 ... I Lawrence 77

Long handicap: Tumbled Bride 9-13, In The Choir 9-10, Alamo Scout 9-9

BETTING: 8-11 Counterbalance, 4-1 Tumbled Bride, 9-2 Carlingford Belle, 8-1 Alamo Scout, 12-1 In The Choir

FORM FOCUS

COUNTERBALANCE 2l 2nd of 5 to Dual Image in a novice handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, soft). CARLINGFORD BELLE best recent effort 6l 2nd of 10 to Nick The Dreamer in a novice handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, soft). TUMBLED BRIDE 7l 2nd of 5 to Nocatchim in a novice chase at Taunton (2m 110yd, soft). IN THE CHOIR 56l 10th of 14 to Bo Knows Best in a novice chase at Windsor (2m 5f, soft). ALAMO SCOUT 14½l 3rd of 9 to Countess Veruschka in a novice handicap chase at Nottingham (3m 5f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start with COUNTERBALANCE (2lb worse off) 25l 4th.

Selection: COUNTERBALANCE

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robertson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

4.00 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: £2,486: 2m 3f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 0 BROUGHTON LADY 26 (Mrs A Wood) T Forster 5-10-12 ... R Farrant –
2 000-0 FORBURIES 55 (C & R Bouston) A James 6-10-12 ... B Powell –
3 20 MAMMY'S CHOICE 32 (D Young) R Alner 5-10-12 ... Mr P Henley (7) 85
4 046 PEARL EPEE 60 (Mrs A Shutes) D Nicholson 6-10-12 ... A Maguire 88
5 2-2 POPPEA 55 (Anne Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 6-10-12 ... G McCourt 91
6 U- QUEEN OF THE CELTS 345 (J Blain) B Palling 6-10-12 ... C Maude –
7 U2 SHRULAWN 93 (BF) (D Yardy) K Bailey 6-10-12 ... N Williamson ⊕
8 354 TAMERGALE 63 (Mrs R Vaughan) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-12 ... D Bridgwater –
9 0-0 WYE OATS 23 (Miss J Andrews) M Scudamore 6-10-12 ... S McNeill –

BETTING: 5-4 Shrulawn, 11-4 Poppea, 9-2 Pearl Epee, 6-1 Tamergale, 10-1 Mammy's Choice, 20-1 Queen Of The Celts, Broughton Lady, 25-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

FORBURIES 33l 7th of 10 to Will It Last in a novice hurdle here (2m 1f, good to soft). MAMMY'S CHOICE 3½l 2nd of 13 to Persistent Gunner in a novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good) on penultimate start. PEARL EPEE 12½l 4th of 12 to Certainly Strong in a novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start. POPPEA 2½l 2nd of 9 to Sevso in a novice hurdle here (2m 1f, good to soft). SHRULAWN 2½l 2nd of 14 to The Boiler White in a novice hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). TAMERGALE 31l 4th of 17 to Sister Stephanie in a novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good).

Selection: SHRULAWN (nap)

4.30 LUGG HANDICAP CHASE (£2,853: 2m) (6 runners)

1 2822F4 EVENING RAIN 37 (D,F,G,S) (Gardens Entertainments) R Hodges 9-11-10 A Tory 92
2 0P-33R3 WILLIE MCGARR 72 (G,S) (Mrs D Thomas) Mrs D Thomas 10-11-1 N Williamson ⊕
3 P4P1U3 RATHER SHARP 7 (D,S) (M Long) C Popham 9-10-11 ... M A Fitzgerald 94
4 PP-332P OLD ROAD 7 (B,D,F,G,S) (I McGready) J Smith 9-10-8 ... W Marston 94
5 0/F-63U2 RAINHAM 37 (S) (A Collins) D McCain 8-10-6 ... A Maguire 95
6 0P-PU COEDWGAN LUCIFER 46 (Mrs M Schoenberg) J Mullins 8-10-0 ... S Curran (3) –

Long handicap: Coedwgan Lucifer 8-11.

BETTING: 9-4 Evening Rain, 3-1 Rather Sharp, 7-2 Willie McGarr, 9-2 Rainham, 6-1 Old Road, 20-1 Coedwgan Lucifer.

FORM FOCUS

EVENING RAIN best recent effort 4l 2nd of 4 to Pegmarine in conditional jockeys' handicap chase at Folkestone (2m, good to soft). WILLIE MCGARR best recent effort 14l 3rd of 6 to Leotard in a novice chase at Kempton (2m, good to soft). RATHER SHARP best effort this term beat Rosgill 1½l in 9-runner selling handicap chase at Plumpton (2m, soft) with OLD ROAD (7lb better off) 5l 3rd. OLD ROAD 25l 2nd of 11 to Djebel Prince in conditional jockeys' handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, good) penultimate start with RATHER SHARP (1lb worse off) unseated rider 13th. RAINHAM distance 2nd of 3 to Banjo in Haydock novice chase (2m, soft).

Selection: WILLIE MCGARR

5.00 HARRY ISAACS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,360: 2m 1f) (15 runners)

1 05-44 BOLD ACRE 40F (Mrs M Morgan) D Burchell 5-11-10 ... D J Burchell 87
2 133121 FIRST CENTURY 9F (B,CD,F,S) (Merthyr Tydfil Auctions) M Pipe 6-11-8 C Swan 93
3 0410 QUELQUE CHOSE 37 (S) (The Three Bears Racing) B Meehan 5-11-6 B Powell 91
4 0-3RUU4 DAN DE LYON 25 (S) (A Staple) C Popham 7-11-6 ... M A Fitzgerald –
5 662 AINSI SOIT IL 44 (B) (A-Men Partnership) F Murphy 4-11-4 ... A Maguire ⊕
6 10 GUNMAKER 7F (BF,S) (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 6-11-2 ... Mr J L Llewellyn 90
7 60/5P-30 STEVE FORD 11 (P Morgan) C Nash 6-10-13 ... J R Kavanagh 91
8 02P1 MINT A MILLION 18 (S) (H Promotions Ltd) M Blanshard 4-10-13 D Gallagher 96
9 0650 MOST BEAUTIFUL 14F (B) (J & J Barker) K Bridgwater 4-10-12 D Bridgwater 80
10 6-004P5 HAILE DERRING 49 (B) (Mrs V Stockdale) M Scudamore 5-10-0 ... S McNeill 84
11 0/P-P355 IDIOM 32 (Mrs J Carrington) Mrs J Retter 8-10-0 ... Mr J Culloty (7) 92
12 000050/ DONT RISE ME 600 (M Churches) M Churches 6-10-0 ... Miss S Mitchell (7) –
13 4/000P/ BETTY BARLOW 728 (Arden Racing Club) M Barraclough 9-10-0 Chris Webb (7) –
14 00/0P-P0 CREDIT CALL 54 (R Brazington) R Brazington 7-10-0 ... W Humphreys –
15 P0PPP-0 NORDIC FLIGHT 18 (Lyonshall Racing) R Eckley 7-10-0 ... V Slattery –

Long handicap: Haile Derring 9-12, Idiom 9-12, Dont Rise Me 9-9, Betty Barlow 9-6, Credit Call 9-2, Nordic Flight 8-11

BETTING: 3-1 First Century, 4-1 Ainsi Soit Il, 6-1 Bold Acre, 7-1 Quelque Chose, Mint A Million, 10-1 Steve Ford, Idiom, 12-1 Dan De Lyon, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

BOLD ACRE 12½l 4th of 8 to El Grando in a novice handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, soft). FIRST CENTURY beat Kazayid 3l in a 9-runner novice handicap hurdle over course and distance (soft). QUELQUE CHOSE beat Erlemo ¾l in a 14-runner selling novice hurdle at Southwell (2m 4f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start.
AINSI SOIT IL 7l 2nd of 10 to Clifton Beat in a novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy)
GUNMAKER beat Ijab 1l in a 13-runner selling hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start.
MINT A MILLION beat Indian Temple 11l in a 9-runner claiming novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, soft). MOST BEAUTIFUL about 21l 5th of 15 to Moment Of Glory in a novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: AINSI SOIT IL

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
R Alner	7	18	38.9	A P McCoy	4	15	26.7
M Pipe	32	112	28.6	S McNeill	16	65	24.6
N Twiston-Davies	15	55	27.3	D Bridgwater	23	108	21.3
D Nicholson	11	44	25.0	D J Burchell	10	48	20.8
K Bailey	14	74	18.9	J R Kavanagh	9	44	20.5
M Scudamore	3	16	18.8	G McCourt	4	22	18.2

Country Tarrogen completes double

POINT-TO-POINT BY BRIAN BEEL

LAST Sunday's Alnwick winner, Country Tarrogen, quickly followed up in the confined race at the **Badsworth** on Saturday.

The six-year-old, from Tim Walford's stable, is owned by Margaret Cooper, whose husband, John, has Fiftysevenchannels running at Hereford today from the same yard. Country Tarrogen also looks likely to play his part in *The Times Rising Stars* series.

With bookmakers being particularly parsimonious — rarely offering above 10-1 in the three well-subscribed maiden races — it was unusual that Nigel Tutty's open winner, Gaelic Warrior, should start at 33-1. He won twice in Ireland last year and ran, admittedly without distinction, in the Ir£10,000 Cox's Cash and Carry Hunter Chase at Punchestown last April in which Elegant Lord beat Teaplanter.

Golden Freeze, the impressive Tweseldown winner, was found wanting in the testing going at Heythrop. An odds-on favourite in the **South Midlands Club** race, he led from seven out to three out, but stopped to nothing when headed by Sirisat.

The Open was won by the Mike Jones-ridden Carrots by half a length after a sustained struggle with Welsh Singer (Rory Lawther). After his recent fall on Avostar at Wincanton on Thursday, Richard Russell had his breeches muddied again when slipping off Royal Day's saddle halfway up the run-in.

Nigel Bloom failed to pass the Jockey Club's doctor and Simon Andrews took the ride on Bear's Flight in the Intermediate at the **Easton** to beat Linred by a neck. Andrews won in another tight finish later when Who's Fooling Who got the better of Flashy Buck by half a length in the Confined.

The organisers of the **South Dorset** won no friends when the weather forecast for heavy rain proved correct and their meeting was abandoned just as everyone was arriving.

Results, page 34

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

2.10 Ashover. 2.40 Dream Carrier. 3.10 Shadow Jury. 3.40 Buddy's Friend. 4.10 Poly Lane. 4.40 Mr Towser.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
3.40 ROAR ON TOUR.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
3.40 BUDDY'S FRIEND (nap).

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 NEVADA LIMITED STAKES
(£2,537: 1m 4f) (9 runners)

101 (5) 10-1 ASHOVER 7 (C,D,F,G,S) T Barron 5-9-3 Kimberley Hart (7) 94
102 (7) 0111 KILLING TIME 3 (V,CD,G) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-3 M Fenton 89
103 (9) 6-32 CAN CAN CHARLIE 18 (C,G,S) J Pearce 5-9-1 R Cochrane 90
104 (4) -306 PHILGUN 5 (V,D,F,G,S) W Elsey 6-9-1 ... N Kennedy 93
105 (2) 00-2 MY HANDY MAN 35 R Allan 4-8-11 ... J Weaver 93
106 (1) 2115 PALACEGATE JO 7 (CD,BF,G,S) R Hollinshead 4-8-10 L Dettori ⊕
107 (8) 230- ART DECO LADY 213 N Babbage 4-8-6 ... G Duffield 89
108 (6) 030- JEMIMA PUDDLEDUCK 153 (G,S) D Arbuthnot 4-8-6 S Whitworth 87
109 (3) 00-6 MISSUS MURHILL 7 (G) N Tinkler 4-8-6 ... Kim Tinkler –

2-1 Ashover, 7-2 Palacegate Jo, 4-1 Killing Time, 5-1 My Handy Man, 6-1 Can Can Charlie, 10-1 Jemima Puddleduck, 12-1 Philgun, 16-1 others.

2.40 SYRIAN DESERT CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,537: 7f) (13)

201 (6) 5134 DREAM CARRIER 7 (CD,F,G) J O'Shea 7-9-3 J Stack (5) 94
202 (7) -242 BATTLE COLOURS 10 (C,D,F,G) Mrs J Ramsden 6-8-9 J Weaver 96
203 (12) 00-1 PINE RIDGE LAD 14 (CD,F,G) J Eyre 5-8-9 S D Williams 89
204 (11) 3134 ALPINE JOHNNY 19 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 4-8-7 A Garth (5) 94
205 (10) 2021 NO SUBMISSION 10 (B,CD,G,S) D Chapman 9-8-7 L Dettori ⊕
206 (9) 6540 MONSIEUR PETONG 18 (G) J Parkes 4-8-3 ... J Fanning 84
207 (4) 5/ KRISTIS GIRL 1108 (C,G,S) D Haydn Jones 8-8-2 A Mackay –
208 (13) 000- ZANZARA 254 (F) Mrs V Aconley 4-8-2 ... T Williams –
209 (5) 560- CRAMONA 343 W Storey 5-8-0 ... Claire Balding (7) –
210 (3) 00-0 MOCKINGBIRD 7 (G) B Preece 4-8-0 ... S Sanders (3) –
211 (2) 2560 ROSINA'S FOLLY 10 (B) J L Harris 4-8-0 ... G Duffield 94
212 (8) -040 BRITANNIA MILLS 24 (F) M Chapman 4-7-12 N Kennedy 78
213 (1) 600- PETAL'S JARRED 101J (D,G) W Storey 5-7-10 J Quinn 84

3-1 No Submission, 7-2 Battle Colours, 9-2 Pine Ridge Lad, 6-1 Dream Carrier, 7-1 Alpine Johnny, 16-1 Monsieur Petong, Rosina's Folly, 20-1 others.

3.10 SAHARA HANDICAP (£2,952: 6f) (8)

301 (5) 065- WHITE SORREL 152 J Eyre 4-10-0 ... J Stack (5) 83
302 (8) -585 EDUCATED PET 7 (D,F,G,S) B Preece 6-9-8 J Weaver 95
303 (3) -433 SHADOW JURY 14 (B,F,G,S) D Chapman 5-9-5 L Dettori 97
304 (6) 04-0 LIFE'S A BREEZE 7 (CD,G) P Felgate 6-9-1 ... J Quinn 89
305 (7) 0-41 CHADWELL HALL 9 (B,D,G) S Bowring 4-9-0 C Teague (7) 95
306 (2) 2522 AT THE SAVOY 7 (BF) T Barron 4-8-10 Dean McKeown ⊕
307 (1) -354 CHEEKY CHAPPY 13 (B) D Chapman 4-8-6 Alex Greaves 94
308 (4) /0 CHRISTIAN FLIGHT 28 S Gollings 6-8-6 ... D Harrison –

9-4 Shadow Jury, 5-2 Chadwell Hall, 7-2 At The Savoy, 6-1 Cheeky Chappy, 10-1 White Sorrel, 12-1 Educated Pet, 16-1 Life's A Breeze, Christian Flight.

3.40 GREAT SANDY HANDICAP (£3,167: 1m) (13)

401 (3) 4434 BENTICO 12 (CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 6-9-11 J Weaver 92
402 (10) 6312 BUDDY'S FRIEND 10 (CD,F,G) R Williams 7-9-9 Sarah Thompson (7) 94
403 (13) 200- MAROWINS 128 (C,D,G) E Alston 6-9-9 ... R Hughes 82
404 (8) 50-6 KARINSKA 42 (CD,F,G) M Chapman 5-9-7 D R McCabe (3) 82
405 (9) 1411 ROAR ON TOUR 3 (CD,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-5 (6ex) R Cochrane ⊕
406 (7) 00-0 KID ORY 21 (G) P Calver 4-8-12 ... Dale Gibson 90
407 (1) 1-50 BALLYHAYS 33 (D,G) J A Harris 6-8-1 ... G Duffield 92
408 (5) 5-00 TWICE IN BUNDORAN 17 (G) P Felgate 4-8-0 P McCabe (5) 89
409 (12) 05-6 DRAGONFLIGHT 12 D Haydn Jones 4-7-11 ... A Mackay 91
410 (6) -600 MR B REASONABLE 9 (F) S Campion 4-7-10 . N Adams 82
411 (4) 5001 AQUADO 7 (C,F,G) A Forbes 6-7-8 (6ex) ... J Quinn 95
412 (11) 00-5 TREMOLANTE 9 J Wilson 4-7-7 ... N Varley (5) 84
413 (2) 6/0 FALCONS DAWN 5J (V,D,F,S) M Meagher 6-7-7 D Wright (3) –

9-4 Roar On Tour, 4-1 Bentico, 5-1 Buddy's Friend, 8-1 Marowins, 10-1 Aquado, 14-1 Kid Ory, Karinska, 16-1 others.

4.10 NUBIAN SELLING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,259: 1m) (10)

501 (7) 3314 POLY LANE 5 (B,CD,BF,F,G,S) W Muir 9-2 ... D Harrison 97
502 (8) 0 ROYAL ADDICTION 28 P Blockley 8-11 ... N Carlisle –
503 (10) 5 WELSH WIZZARD 11 C Williams 8-11 ... M Wigham –
504 (6) 0-00 WINTERBOTTOM 13 (V) I Campbell 8-11 ... A Mackay 87
505 (5) 000- BAKERS DAUGHTER 138 J Arnold 8-6 ... J Quinn 91
506 (4) 04 BOLDLY SO 17 W Musson 8-6 ... P McCabe (5) 87
507 (3) 34-6 LITTLE SCARLETT 20 P Makin 8-6 ... L Dettori ⊕
508 (9) 6 MADAM SUMPAK 42 Mrs V Aconley 8-6 .. S Drowne (5) 86
509 (1) 5-64 RISKY ROSE 28 R Hollinshead 8-6 ... A Garth (5) 87
510 (2) 000- SUMMER VILLA 131 P Haslam 8-6 ... J Weaver 71

6-4 Poly Lane, 11-4 Boldly So, 5-1 Little Scarlett, 10-1 Bakers Daughter, 12-1 Winterbottom, Summer Villa, Madam Sumpak, 14-1 others.

4.40 KALAHARI HANDICAP (£3,067: 1m 3f) (13)

601 (12) 54-2 MR TOWSER 7 (C,G) W Haigh 4-10-0 ... Dale Gibson 93
602 (8) 6622 TU OPES 12 (F,G) J L Harris 4-9-10 ... J Weaver 94
603 (6) 05-4 IN A MOMENT 7 (C,G) T Barron 4-9-6 . Dean McKeown 86
604 (13) 000- GUARDS BRIGADE 112 (C,G) J Hetherton 4-9-4 N Kennedy 85
605 (7) -250 CAMDEN'S RANSOM 14 (F,G) H Rowsell 8-8-11 B Doyle 98
606 (10) 0-64 SUIVEZ 9 (F) Mrs N Macauley 5-8-10 ... L Dettori 94
607 (1) 304- SUNDAY NEWS'N'ECHO 30J (G) W Storey 4-8-9 D R McCabe (3) ⊕
608 (2) -336 MODEST HOPE 17 (C,D,F,G) B Richmond 8-8-6 J McLaughlin 91
609 (5) -031 AWESTRUCK 9 (C,F,G,S) B Preece 5-8-6 ... G Duffield 92
610 (9) 1004 GENESIS FOUR 9 (B,C,G) S Bowring 5-8-0 Claire Balding (7) 95
611 (3) 606- HO-JOE 86J (F) J Carr 5-8-0 ... S Morris 95
612 (4) 000- PERSONIMUS 94 J Wilson 5-7-11 ... N Carlisle 90
613 (11) 005- LIAB 23J J Parkes 5-7-7 ... M Baird (5) 85

3-1 Mr Towser, 7-2 Tu Opes, 5-1 In A Moment, 10-1 Awestruck, Suivez, 12-1 Camden's Ransom, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 18 winners from 57 runners, 31.6%; W Musson, 6 from 30, 20.0%; D Arbuthnot, 5 from 30, 16.7%; W Haigh, 16 from 97, 16.5%; T Barron, 40 from 255, 15.7%; J Hetherton, 10 from 69, 14.5%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 34 winners from 165 rides, 20.6%; J McLaughlin, 7 from 43, 16.3%; J Weaver, 24 from 148, 16.2%; R Cochrane, 17 from 112, 15.2%; G Duffield, 29 from 194, 14.9%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Hereford: 2.00 Flinters, Llama Lady. 2.30 Saracen's Boy. 5.00 Most Beautiful. Southwell: 2.40 No Submission, Rosina's Folly. 4.10 Winterbottom.

Holy Bull out

HOLY BULL, the 1994 American Horse of the Year, has been retired after being pulled up in the Donn Handicap at Gulfstream Park, Florida, on Saturday.

The colt, trying for his seventh consecutive win at odds of 5-1 on, suffered ligament damage while battling for the lead with Cigar, who went on to win the nine-furlong race.

JUMP LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	79	62	38	3	-40.26
D Nicholson	73	38	27	2	+42.85
Mrs M Reveley	70	43	33	1	-5.25
P Hobbs	54	45	29	41	-41.25
N Twiston-Davies	50	46	39	1	-57.61
K Bailey	44	37	19	15	+51.98
J White	37	34	26	25	-6.46
G Richards	30	19	19	27	-16.83
J Gifford	30	25	17	3	-26.73
G Balding	30	21	19	5	-4.47

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
R Dunwoody	112	79	61	7	-55.81
A Maguire	111	75	62	0	-68.65
N Williamson	77	64	51	11	-8.12
J Osborne	71	50	45	1	-60.94
P Niven	65	47	35	3	-30.41
D Bridgwater	48	29	32	4	+26.22
W Marston	47	25	24	3	+48.21
M Dwyer	47	58	28	10	-38.46

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Brentwood reach point of healthy return

By John Goodbody

WHY a school regularly achieves success in a particular sport is difficult to analyse. Tradition is always a motivating force, but it can be hard for a school to begin that tradition, especially in the less popular activities.

Frequently, the debt is to the individual teachers, who can inspire pupils with their knowledgeable enthusiasm. A momentum is created and, although the teachers may leave, their influence on the school remains.

Brentwood School, in Essex, is a typical example. It has won the public schools' fencing championships 28 times since 1962. It holds the national schools epée titles in the under-17 and under-15 age groups, and the sabre title in three age groups. It has produced a host of internationals and national champions.

The school's coaches include Gareth Stafford-Bull, the national under-20 epee coach, Mike Matthews, the national under-20 sabre coach, and Todd Lindsay, a Great Britain junior international.

However, the origins of the school's momentous run lie in the 1950s, when a master, Jeff Featherstone, persuaded the headmaster to begin the Olympic sport and then brought in Professor Steve Boston to teach the boys.

Stafford-Bull, a pupil from 1967-74, says the combination of Featherstone's enthusiasm and Boston's expertise brought Brentwood to prominence. Celebrated early figures included David Acfield, the Essex cricketer and an Olympic fencer in 1968.

The honours have increased. Tom Kirby, another former pupil, became the youngest person to represent Britain at the senior world championships in epée in 1994, when he was 18. He was attracted to the sport when he saw a display in 1988.

"I had done loads of sports, but I found the idea of bashing someone with a metal stick quite amusing," he said. "I like individual sports. They tell you a lot about yourself. You cannot rely on anyone else. They are a bit more like life."

Lindsay, the master in charge of fencing at Brentwood, admits that the sport does suffer from its "white breeches image. However, whenever the fencers have their fitness levels compared to footballers or hockey players, people realise it is not an easy option. People do not realise how tough it is."

Younger pupils have the stimulus of practising with international competitors. The experience filters down from the top. Their reflexes are sharpened and their perceptual knowledge is improved.

David Sach, a sabreur, finished twentieth in the under-20 world championships last year, although he is only 16. "We do feel we have a responsibility to the younger fencers, so we help out during competitions, just as other boys helped us when we were younger," he said. He is studying for A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics but still hopes to make the Great Britain squad for the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year.

"As a fencer, you are expected to do well here," he said. "But it does get a bit embarrassing always walking up in assembly to receive trophies."

Photograph, page 34
Results, page 34

Determined youngsters revel in mud, glorious mud

Daniel Horner, of Henley Trinity School, in full stride during the Three Counties primary school cross country championships at Henley. Photograph: James Morgan

By Tom Chesshyre

IN THE nervous moments before the first race at the Three Counties primary schools cross country championships, held at Gillotts School, Henley, on Saturday, parents yelled advice: "If you fall over, get up and carry on — don't worry about getting muddy. You can do it!"

Although there was a cold and unpleasant drizzle, steely expressions of determination filled the faces of the participants. More than 450 primary school children, from seven to 12, braved terrible conditions to take part in the second year of the largest event of its kind in Britain.

Despite the name, four counties now participate: Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. Last year's races were so successful that schools from Hertfordshire asked to be included.

"What's great about cross country for children is that all levels of ability can compete," Gordon Davies, race co-ordinator and head of PE at Henley Trinity School, said. "In team sports like football, some can feel as though they are letting the side down — you don't really get that in cross country."

The competition was of a high standard. Gemma Eggleton, 12, from Gillotts School, who won the girls' year seven race by a minute, represents Britain at school level. "One day I want to win a gold medal for Great Britain in the Olympics," she said.

Results, page 34

Fair opportunity for young stars to rise to the top

By Brian Beel

HEREFORD today stages the first of seven qualifying races in *The Times* Rising Stars series, leading to the £10,000 final at Newbury on March 24.

The purpose of the series, now in its third year, in forging a closer link between point-to-pointing and hunter chasing, has never been more important. While racing between the flags increases in popularity, the decline in National Hunt racing continues. Only by encouraging the best of the young horses to the racecourse proper will the balance be redressed.

Many top steeplechasers have learnt their trade in point-to-points and hunter chasing bridges the gap between the two codes. If this was made easier, more horses would take the initial step.

The Times series does just that. Unlike a maiden hunter chase, where young point-to-pointers race against older horses and those from the yards of professional trainers, a Rising Stars qualifier enables horses to compete on a racecourse against those that they normally meet each weekend.

If some of their peers have already had successes in hunter chases, the new recruit will compete on better terms. For example, if Johnny Greenall rode his dual hunter chase winner, Kilfinny Cross, in an open race he would usually carry the same weight as every other horse. In a Times race the other horses could have 21lb weight advantage.

The involvement of licensed trainers in hunter chases is a contentious one and *The Times* broke new ground when the Rising Stars series was introduced two years ago. The conditions exclude the professional unless he, or she, owns the horse.

One change, which was resisted for far too long by the Jockey Club, concerned the graduation of the point-to-pointer to the racecourse. Until last year a maiden that won a hunter chase was debarred from novice chasing.

The barrier was lifted, albeit with a 4lb penalty, but an anomaly still exists. The licensed trainers can run their horses in hunter chases but the successful owner-trainer is not allowed entry into novice chases.

A review of hunter chasing would be beneficial in order that a structured programme could be planned to encourage the cream of point-to-pointers on to the racecourse and, if they passed the test, into novice chasing. Additionally, weight conditions should be altered to make hunter chases more competitive.

The Times series, taking into account mares and riders' allowances, has a spread of 29lb. If all hunter chases were graded, with those at the bottom having similar conditions to *The Times* series, more horses would be attracted into National Hunt racing.

An intriguing race is in prospect for the first qualifier at Hereford today, which has attracted 12 entries.

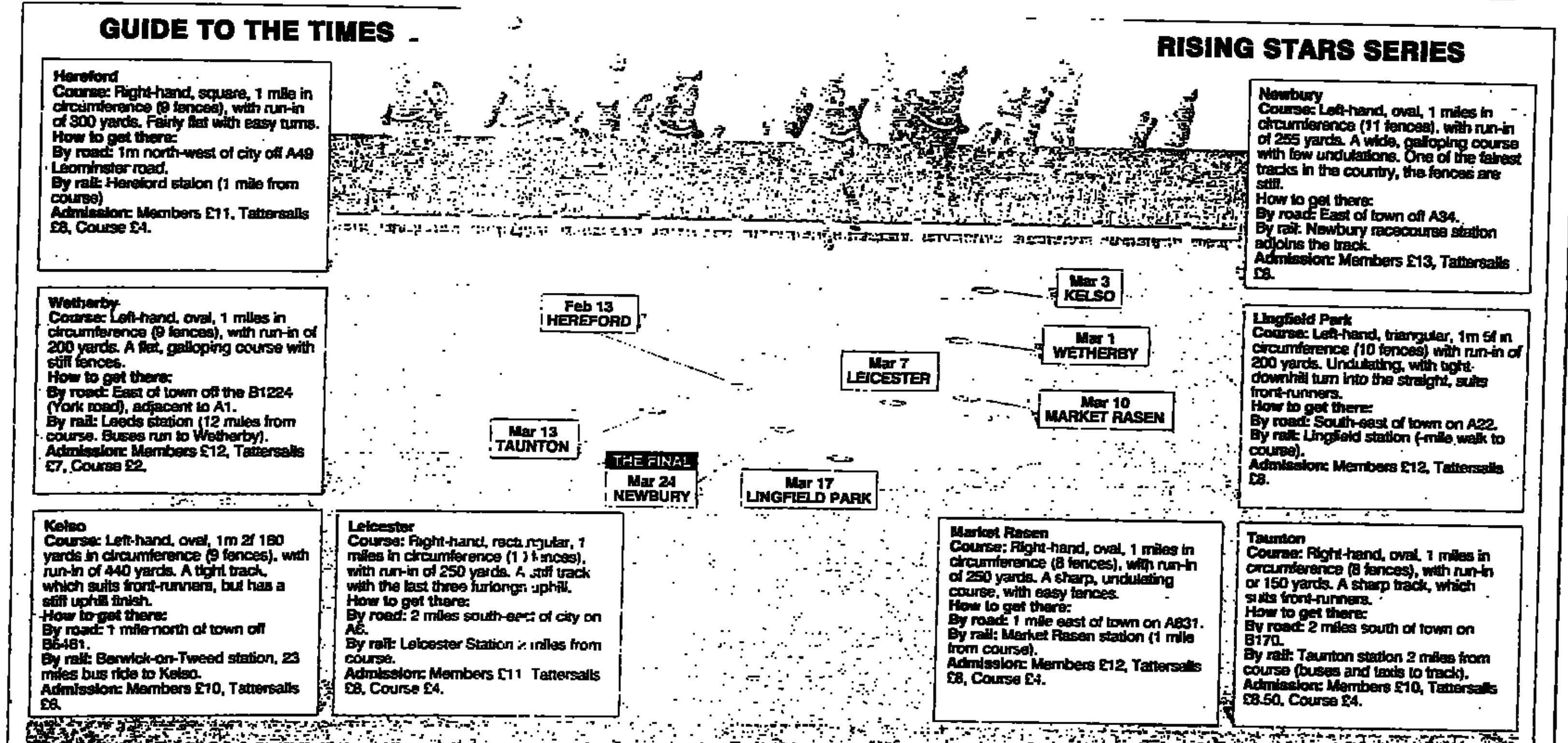
Heading the list is last year's John Corbet winner, Celtic Abbey, a hopeful for the Cheltenham Foxhunters.

At level weights he would be the odds-on favourite but the stone advantage Fiftysevenchannels and Woodbury Fair receive will be a great leveller in the testing conditions. Celtic Abbey also has to give a stone to Johnny Greenall's promising Lord Of The West.

Celtic Abbey started 1994 as a maiden point-to-pointer and after winning two of his four races switched to hunter chasing. Unlucky to fall when in command on his first appearance, he won his other two races in convincing style.

Mike Felton, who rode Synderborough Lad to win last year's Rising Stars final, will partner Woodbury Fair today. He was successful on heavy going last season. He won by a distance on his reappearance at Larkhill in January and was a creditable second to Celtic Spark on the same course nine days ago.

However, **Fiftysevenchannels** gets the vote. He has also won on heavy ground, in Ireland last year. On his only outing this season he beat Saturday's Easton Harriers open winner, Carrots, at Cottenham.



Hereford
Course: Right-hand, square, 1 mile in circumference (9 fences), with run-in of 300 yards. Fairly flat with easy turns.
How to get there:
By road: 1m north-west of city off A49 Leominster road.
By rail: Hereford station (1 mile from course)
Admission: Members £11, Tattersalls £8, Course £4.

Wetherby
Course: Left-hand, oval, 1 miles in circumference (9 fences), with run-in of 200 yards. A flat, galloping course with stiff fences.
How to get there:
By road: East of town off the B1224 (York road), adjacent to A1.
By rail: Leeds station (12 miles from course. Buses run to Wetherby).
Admission: Members £12, Tattersalls £7, Course £2.

Kelso
Course: Left-hand, oval, 1m 2f 160 yards in circumference (9 fences), with run-in of 440 yards. A tight track, which suits front-runners, but has a stiff uphill finish.
How to get there:
By road: 1 mile north of town off B6461.
By rail: Berwick-on-Tweed station, 23 miles bus ride to Kelso.
Admission: Members £10, Tattersalls £6.

Leicester
Course: Right-hand, rectangular, 1 miles in circumference (1[illegible] fences), with run-in of 250 yards. A stiff track with the last three furlongs uphill.
How to get there:
By road: 2 miles south-east of city on A6.
By rail: Leicester Station [illegible] miles from course.
Admission: Members £11 Tattersalls £8, Course £4.

Newbury
Course: Left-hand, oval, 1 miles in circumference (11 fences), with run-in of 255 yards. A wide, galloping course with few undulations. One of the fairest tracks in the country, the fences are stiff.
How to get there:
By road: East of town off A34.
By rail: Newbury racecourse station adjoins the track.
Admission: Members £13, Tattersalls £8.

Lingfield Park
Course: Left-hand, triangular, 1m 5f in circumference (10 fences) with run-in of 200 yards. Undulating, with tight downhill turn into the straight, suits front-runners.
How to get there:
By road: South-east of town on A22.
By rail: Lingfield station (-mile walk to course).
Admission: Members £12, Tattersalls £8.

Market Rasen
Course: Right-hand, oval, 1 miles in circumference (8 fences), with run-in of 250 yards. A sharp, undulating course, with easy fences.
How to get there:
By road: 1 mile east of town on A631.
By rail: Market Rasen station (1 mile from course).
Admission: Members £12, Tattersalls £8, Course £4.

Taunton
Course: Right-hand, oval, 1 miles in circumference (8 fences), with run-in or 150 yards. A sharp track, which suits front-runners.
How to get there:
By road: 2 miles south of town on B170.
By rail: Taunton station 2 miles from course (buses and taxis to track).
Admission: Members £10, Tattersalls £8.50, Course £4.

HEREFORD LINE-UP

GOING: HEAVY

2.30 THE TIMES RISING STARS HUNTER CHASE

(Qualifier: amateurs: £1,968. 3m 1f 110yd) (12 runners)

1	221F11-	CELTIC ABBEY 255 (F,G,S) (G Powell) Mrs C Hardinge 7-12-7	D S Jones	95
2	3P/U22-	ANDRELOT 331P (F,G) (H Jones) S Douch 8-12-0	J Jukes	—
3	023254-	MY NOMINEE 275 (D Nicholls) D Nicholls 7-12-0	A Griffith	84
4	664365	RUSTY BRIDGE 9P (CD,F,G) (I Johnson) Mrs S Johnson 8-12-0	R Johnson	▨
5	21122-	BRADFORD BEAU 296P (G,S) (P Cartridge) Mrs P Grainger 7-11-7	A Phillips	—
6	2111-1	FIFTYSEVENCHANNELS 22P (S) (J Cooper) T Walford 6-11-7	N Wilson	—
7	PU34P-	IN THE WATER 275P (Mrs A Price) Mrs A Price 8-11-7	M Jackson	—
8	21-	LORD OF THE WEST 338P (S) (J Greenall) Miss C Saunders 6-11-7	J Greenall	—
9	P-PB53	SARACEN'S BOY 30P (B) (M Churches) M Churches 7-11-7	J Culloty	—
10	311-12	WOODBURY FAIR 9P (G,S) (Mrs M Cobham) Mrs M Cobham 7-11-7	M Felton	—
11	0PPSP-P	AGAPANTHUS 30P (H) (L Bowles) L Bowles 8-11-2	Miss C Thomas	—
12	11FF2-0	COVERDALE LANE 8P (S) (J Paddington) Miss C Richardson 8-11-2	P Murray	—

BETTING: 11-4 Fiftysevenchannels, 3-1 Woodbury Fair, 7-2 Celtic Abbey, 6-1 Lord Of The West, 10-1 Bradford Beau, Rusty Bridge, 12-1 Coverdale Lane, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

CELTIC ABBEY (connections have Cheltenham Foxhunters in mind) beat Fox Pointer 4l in an 8-runner amateur riders' novice hunter chase at Stratford (3m 4f, good to firm) with RUSTY [illegible] [illegible] 11l 4th, previously beat Virgle Lorraine 3½l in maiden hunter chase at [illegible] (2m 5f, firm) and unlucky not have completed treble as, in race before that, he fell two out when clear in a novices' hunter chase at Stratford (3m, good)

ANDRELOT 15l 2nd of 6 to Jack Sound in an open at Lydstep (3m, soft) MY NOMINEE 19l 4th of 12 to My Noddy in an amateur riders' hunter chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good to firm) BRADFORD BEAU short-head 2nd of 5 to Kingswood Kitchens in a hunt at Chaddesley Corbett (3m, good)

FIFTYSEVENCHANNELS beat Carrots 4l in a 14-runner intermediate at Cottenham (3m, good to soft)

IN THE WATER best recent effort 11l 3rd of 11 to Katie Parson in a maiden open at Brampton Bryan (3m, good) April 1994 LORD OF THE WEST beat Beau Dandy 4l in a 12-runner maiden confined at Newton Bromswold (3m, good to soft). Lightly raced and from a yard likely to bring about further improvement. SARACEN'S BOY distance 3rd of 16 to Our Wizzer in a maiden open at Larkhill (3m, good) WOODBURY FAIR 5l 2nd of 22 to Celtic Spark in a confined at Larkhill (3m, good to soft) COVERDALE LANE 42l 7th of 19 to Country Tarrogan in a restricted at Alnwick (3m, good)

Selection: CELTIC ABBEY

Small talk puts different gloss on large defeat

Last Saturday afternoon, Radio 5 Live filled the air with the sound of Manchester United, Terry Venables, George Graham, Denis Law ... and I thought back to a Saturday afternoon 30 years ago involving that same cast.

Chelsea were at Old Trafford; the result was pretty much what you would expect now, and what was expected then.

After the game, the Chelsea players filed into the coach outside the ground, brushing away autograph-hunters: four goals down and it does not matter whether the kids say "Please, Barry," "Excuse me, Mr Bridges," or "Pardon me, sir." The answer is no.

I was on friendly terms with the London club's management, got a lift to the station in the team bus, and sat with them on the 5.45 train to Euston.

McCreadie, who had given away the first goal, sat exuding misery and lit a cigarette. Tommy Docherty, the Chelsea manager and author of *A Friend in Need is a Pain in the Backside* and *Do Unto Others and Run Like Hell*, now turned diplomat: "I'd sooner have a constructive full back who gives away the occasional goal than play a man who belts it out of sight whenever the other team is on the attack," he said. Tambling, whose excellent chance in the 43rd minute skimmed over the crossbar, lit a cigarette also. Venables, the Chelsea captain, was talking about the referee: "I said to him, 'look at that', and he said, 'I'm sorry', so I said to him, 'don't say I'm sorry, blow up'." A Chelsea director lit his cigar.

When we started on the soup, conversation lifted fractionally. Two players decided that Herd's goal was offside; as there was general agreement with this, everyone felt better. Then someone opined that not one of the four goals which went past Bonetti could have been saved ... which made Bonetti feel better. Silence descended as we waited for the main course. The club secretary, a pompous man who dealt with statistics, said: "We have now lost six matches: 14 goals against, nil for. In fact, if we score, we win." "Or draw," George Graham said. Right, the secretary agreed.

The club doctor's wife spoke next: "I think Denis Law is fascinating to watch." The chairman's daughter-in-law added: "Of course points matter, but at the same time this sort of football is an entertainment."

It's Law's hair that is so fascinating, the doctor's wife said. The chairman's son came across to our table and spoke to Docherty. Any injuries, Tom? "The way we played we'll never get any injuries," the manager said, with some disgust.

Don't be downhearted, the chairman's son said, we lost against Swansea and Plymouth in our promotion year, and never forget Sunderland. (In the last away match of 1964, Chelsea had gone to Roker Park and secured crucial victory by the only goal of the match, Harmer converting a corner.)

During the service of cheese and pudding, the trainer started a therapeutic game of cards with three of his team, and most of the other players went back to their carriages, leaving the supporting cast in the dining car drinking coffee and brandy.

"Denis Law's hair really fascinates me," the doctor's wife said. "It makes a nice change not having to worry about being at the top of the table," her husband added.

"Our downfall was that when we got the ball, we didn't go forward," the chairman's nephew said.

"It was all over in the fourth minute after Best's goal," his cousin said. I still had hopes until half-time, his wife said.

That's right, the doctor said; if they had not scored, we could have drawn.

Some time after that I realised the small talk of distant connections of a losing football team makes less than compulsive listening and returned to my carriage.

CLEMENT FREUD

Afterthoughts

THE TIMES

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Reference

The History of the Times Volume 5 -
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Rivals come to blows in cup battle

Leeds do enough as Bradford get lost in bad blood

Leeds	31
Bradford Northern	14

By Christopher Irvine

BETWEEN the bouts of fisticuffs and bad blood coursing through a spiteful encounter yesterday, Leeds produced sufficient bursts of decent rugby league to advance to the fifth-round draw tonight for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

In playing close on 13 minutes of second-half injury time, the Headingley timekeepers set some kind of record. Four three-minute rounds summed up a depressing spectacle. Even after 85 minutes, Clark could not resist one final elbow into the face of Eyres, and the Bradford Northern hooker became the team's fourth player to be sent to the sin-bin.

Bradford's disintegrating discipline included a highly dangerous spear tackle on Ellery Hanley, for which Fairbank was lucky not to join the list of those dispatched. Myers, twice, was ordered from the field for ten minutes, once for holding down in the tackle and then for brawling.

After the first of three outbreaks of hand-to-hand combat, Iro, the Leeds centre, and Hamer, the Bradford prop, were singled out for yellow cards. It was a case of John Connolly taking any two from the warring factions.

That the referee's patience did not snap sooner was even more remarkable than was his failure to deal with the constant second-half feuding with some permanent dismissals. Leeds were hardly an innocent party, but Bradford's self-destruction was their undoing after they had competed well enough until half-time, when they trailed by just four point.

Hanley: primary target

The turning point was the timing of the first of two tries by Mercer, the Leeds second-row forward. Coming just prior to the interval, it cancelled out Clark's burrowing try for Bradford, Fox's conversion and his two neatly struck dropped goals.

Hanley had taken a lovely slip pass out of the back of Tait's hand for his 31st try of the season. His 32nd, at the start of the second period, was a visionary chip and chase. Behind 16-8, Bradford took matters into their fists, Hanley being the primary target.

Between the scuffles and mêlées, Tait was stretchered off, spitting blood, after suffering bruised ribs. Importantly, Leeds managed restraint and, while Bradford continued to lose their heads, the home side remorselessly pulled away.

Schofield dropped a goal, good work by Lowes furnished Mercer with his second try and Holroyd took his tally to 14 points with five goals and a touch down.

Holroyd was a unanimous man of the match. His switch with Schofield from stand-off to scrum half has been the cog that drives the attacking wheel of the Leeds back line. Defence, too, is where the Yorkshire side is a far more redoubtable outfit, a late try by Medley for Bradford notwithstanding.

While Wigan pulled up at the first hurdle, Leeds, the second favourites, at least took a positive stride in overcoming their neighbours. With only third place realistically possible in the Stones Bitter Championship, Bradford's season is effectively on hold until the Premiership in May. Their shenanigans should speed up the introduction of a proposed system of referees reporting culprits directly to the Rugby Football League's disciplinary committee.

SCORERS: Leeds: Tries: Hanley (2), Mercer (2), Holroyd. Goals: Holroyd (5). Dropped goal: Schofield. Bradford Northern: Tries: Clark, Medley. Goals: Fox (2). Dropped goals: Fox (2).

LEEDS: A Tait (sub: Howard, 65min; sub. Fairnalo, 80), J Fallon, K Iro, C Innes, F Cummins; G Schofield, G Holroyd, H Howard (sub: G Mann, 61), J Lowes, E Faimalo (sub: N Harmon, 61), G Mercer, R Eyres, E Hanley.

BRADFORD NORTHERN: D Watson (sub: D Heron, 43); R Simpson, C Hall, G Christie, D Myers, N Summers, D Fox; R Powell, T Clark, J Hamer (sub: Fairbank, 60), P Dixon (sub: Hamer, 61), K Fairbank (sub: P Medley, 27), B McDermott.

Referee: J Connolly.

☐ Oldham broke a 36-year-old club record as they swept into tomorrow's Silk Cut Challenge Cup fifth-round draw with a 70-10 win over Bramley. Wilson Marsh, the Oldham stand-off, scored a try and kicked 11 goals from 13 attempts to take his match tally to 26 points. Despite scoring two tries, the second-division side found itself either outgunned or outclassed in every department.

Silk Cut Challenge Cup results ..... Page 34

Cup replay in clash with international

By Christopher Irvine

NOBODY banked on St Helen's drawing at Central Park and taking Wigan into unchartered territory with a first replay in their seven-year domination of the Challenge Cup. Certainly not Ellery Hanley, who must replace virtually half his squad for the international against France at Gateshead on Wednesday.

In a classic case of bad forward planning, nine of Hanley's original selections from Wigan and St Helen's will the same night compete in the second part of an epic cup encounter. International rugby league is not so plentiful as to devalue the little that does exist, but the clash is merely symptomatic of an overcrowded fixture list.

Despite St Helen's requesting a week's delay, the Rugby Football League (RFL) has no alternative under the by-laws to setting the replay for Wednesday.

Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, said: "The only loser is the game. We are playing too much football, but when I put forward proposals in the *Framing the Future* document to resolve this, nobody listened," he said.

For all the problems off the field, Saturday was a manifest example of how right the game is on it. The 16-16 result ended Wigan's winning run of three successive Challenge Cup ties, after Hall's try nine minutes from the end rescued them.

There were subsequent chances for either side, but in hitting the post, Goulding's attempted dropped goal was the nearest the visitors came.

Wigan trailed to first-half tries by Pickavance and Hunte. A touchdown by Betts after an earlier try by Tuigamala brought them level a first time, before Hall's saving score cancelled out Saints' four second-half points.

Tukere Barlow took the man-of-the-match award after scoring his sixth try for Warrington since October as they beat Castleford 17-2 in another cup clash.

The amateurs of Beverley made a brave but unsuccessful attempt to put a second professional team out of the cup, going down 30-20 to Batley, of the second division.

Doncaster scored two late tries, but were beaten 22-12 by Sheffield Eagles in their South Yorkshire Challenge Cup encounter.

Emma Scourfield, left, of England, prepares for a scrum in the international against Wales at Sale yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

National pride dispels prejudice

Gerald Davies reports on a skilful women's international in which England beat Wales 25-0

The old world changes, and so do attitudes. Years ago, a friend of mine used to say, in his fashion, that, for so rough a game, he could not get over the extraordinary number of women who followed rugby. Were he still with us today, he would find that the women are not only there sitting beside him in the stand, but out there on the pitch, too. For so politically correct an age, this masculine view of the feminine world may be interpreted as dangerous talk. But there we are. We cannot deny the fact.

Quite what my old pal would say in seeing the women of England actually playing the game against the women of Wales, I am not sure. But knowing him, he would doubtless approve, particularly as he would have seen a match of high skill and wholehearted endeavour at Sale yesterday. He would have been less content, however, since he wore his Welsh heart so firmly on his sleeve, to see Wales go down to so disciplined and well-organised an England team by five tries without reply.

Those who object to women playing rugby are much the same as those who once objected to women running marathons: the over-protective male attempting to shelter what is perceived to be the sensitive femininity of a woman. This is the male chauvinist in patronising mood.

Jeff Probyn put his foot in it recently by wishing, at the first hint of danger and physical harm, to outlaw women from rugby altogether and giving scant acknowledgement that women, like men, can make up their own minds as to what is and what is not dangerous. Adopting such a posture is much like subscribing to Dr Samuel Johnson's view that "a man is in general better pleased when he has a good dinner at his table, than when his wife talks Greek".

Had the venerable good doctor known about rugby, he might have added the laws of rugby union as another subject to be kicked into touch. The dissection of rugby's intricacies can often seem like so much "greek" in any case.

While England were too powerful for Wales to make it a proper contest, the skills displayed and the overall commitment of both teams were qualities to admire. The feistiness with which women's rugby has been foisted on an unsuspecting and deeply suspicious public deserves to be richly rewarded. Unless that sounds too patronising.

The dominating personality was England's captain. Gill Burns dominated the lineout and like Dean Richards — although comparisons are not wholly valid — she drew her forwards around her to clear any threats at the base of the scrum. Not far behind her was Jenny Chambers. Suzy Appleby was a neat and busy scrum half, who, with an accurate pass, seemed to turn up everywhere when the need was called. These three set a high standard.

For Wales, Amanda Bennett, at stand-off half, seemed to have studied the videos of when Wales's factory was in full production. She had a fine gmae, as did Lisa Jones at No 8.

Sara Wenn's try from a drive at the lineout close to the Welsh line and Burns's push-over try gave England the half-time lead. Superior power in attack led to three more tries after the interval by Mills, Appleby and Edwards.

Now that England and Scotland are associate members of their respective rugby unions, with Wales and Ireland soon to follow, the future of women's rugby can be nothing less than bright. Any remaining prejudice must fly out of the window.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Wenn, Burns, Mills, Appleby, Edwards.

ENGLAND: P George (Wasps), J Molyneux (Waterloo), J Edwards (Blackheath), A Wallace (Leeds) A Cole (Saracens); D Mills (Richmond), S Appleby (Novocastrians); J Mangham (Waterloo), N Ponsford (Clifton), E Scourfield (Leeds), J Chambers (Richmond), S Wenn (Wasps), H Stirrup (Wasps), H Clayton (Waterloo), G Burns (Waterloo). Cole replaced by L Mayhew (Leeds, 68min). Burns temporarily replaced by K Henderson (Clifton, 56).

WALES: K Richards (Old Leamingtonians), A Lewis (Ystradgynlais), P Evans (Swansea), W Shaw (Aberystwyth), K Yau (Waterloo), A Bennett (Wasps); B Evans (Cardiff); J Watkins (Cardiff), N Griffiths (Cardiff), C Lloyd (Cardiff), J Morgan (Cardiff), S Jones (Cardiff), K Knoek (Swansea), S Butler (Richmond), L Jones (Cardiff). B Evans replaced by C Thomas (Waterloo, 28). Griffiths replaced by B Jones-Evans (Waterloo, 68), S Jones replaced by H Carey (Swansea, 56).

Referee: J Fleming (Scotland).

Ivory Coast chalks up early Cup victory

By Athanese Dali

THE ROAD TO THE WORLD CUP

EVEN before the third World Cup starts in South Africa in May, rugby has already won a great match on the Ivory Coast. The country's national team, known as the Elephants, has qualified for the tournament.

Taking part in the finals seemed an insuperable challenge for many small rugby nations. It is a quite extraordinary achievement for the Ivory Coast. Its small but ambitious rugby federation has only 5,000 registered players, including boys and students, and about 15 senior teams.

At present, despite the rather mediocre overall standard of the domestic championship, the national team plays an enthusiastic and aggressive game. At the start of this fabulous adventure we have succeeded in joining the scrum of 16 teams at this rugby feast. The Ivory Coast will form part of pool four, together with France, Scotland and Tonga, and will play at Rustenberg, on the high veld of Northern Transvaal. The pool is a tough one: even though Scotland are not as intimidating as they were in the days of Calder, Jeffrey and Sole, they have a fine squad with outstanding players, such as the Hastings brothers and Gary Armstrong, and have always played a physical game.

But for me, France are the real threat, the strongest team in the pool. The French are sure of themselves and of their style, fortified by their triumphant tours of South Africa and New Zealand. They are one of the five countries in with a chance of winning the World Cup, along with Australia, England, New Zealand and South Africa.

As for Tonga, they will be a hard team to cope with, given their high standard of physical play. The Tongans rely on a strong defence and have already won their spurs by knocking out Fiji.

But it only adds to our pleasure that the World Cup — the highest level of play — will bring us face to face with such strong opposition. This is a plus. We will play our matches with gusto and we have nothing to lose. The main thing for us is to improve our play and to measure ourselves against the standards of the best rugby nations in world.

The Elephants will give of their best and project the best face of Ivory Coast rugby. I do not think that we will be among the four finalists and, for this reason, we have made arrangements for only the first round of the tournament. This is not from lack of ambition; it is being realistic.

The whole country has acknowledged the Elephants' qualification for the extraordinary achievement that it is, and I hope that the rewards will be great, not only for Ivory Coast rugby but also for the game in black Africa as a whole.

The spread of rugby in African countries increases the number of matches available to us and so helps us to improve. And the fact that we have qualified for a World Cup held in South Africa augurs well for the future. It is a valuable symbol.

We will be worthy ambassadors. And I hope that after the introduction of democratisation in the political and public life of South Africa we will take part in a greater democratisation of rugby in that country — and in Namibia and Zimbabwe and anywhere else rugby is played by only one race or class.

☐ *Athanese Dali is captain of the Ivory Coast national team.*

THE TIMES

In command: Simon Rattle wields the baton

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THE TIMES

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Britain win battle of the bouquets

David Powell, athletics correspondent, on how the women disarmed the French

Perhaps it was because every winner was handed a bouquet of flowers that the Great Britain women sprinters were inspired to be as unyielding as the men in the Interflora indoor match at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall against France on Saturday. Then again, perhaps not. They just know how to do a professional job these days.

Everything that Linford Christie, John Regis, Mark Hylton and Colin Jackson won, Stephanie Douglas, Paula Thomas, Melanie Neef and Jacqui Agyepong matched. Even the women's 4 x 400 metres team, without Neef and Sally Gunnell, came up smelling of roses.

Christie won the men's 60 metres, Douglas the women's, beating Patricia Girard, the European indoor bronze medal-winner, with 7.21sec. Regis won the men's 200 metres, Thomas the women's with a personal best 23.42sec, nine years after her first senior international race.

Hylton, at 18, won the men's 400 metres, Neef the women's with a fearless run. Jackson sped to an inevitable sprint hurdles victory and Agyepong took the women's 60 metres hurdles in a fast 8.08sec.

A year ago such dominance by Britain's women would have been unthinkable but self-belief has spiralled. Verona Elder, the Great Britain team manager, expects the women to be even more successful this summer than last.

Unthinkable, too, 12 months ago would have been the prospect of the women taking more victories than the men at an international fixture, nine to eight. Against Russia in Glasgow last winter, they won only one event. Judy Oakes (shot), Denise Lewis (long jump), Kate Staples (pole vault) and Michelle Griffith (triple jump) complemented the sprinters' successes.

Though the women played their part in seeing off France, 155-122, the comparison with the men stops there. Douglas, Thomas, Neef and Agyepong will do well to reach world championship finals next summer but Christie, Regis and Jackson will expect nothing less than gold.

Only Regis is going for the indoor-outdoor double but, before the world indoor championships in Barcelona next month, he is due to race Frankie Fredericks, the outdoor world champion, on the world's fastest track next Sunday. Regis hopes they bring on Michael Johnson as well. A world record made in France, and held by a Frenchman, looks condemned to the guillotine. Regis, who set a 200 metres British record of 20.47sec in Stuttgart last week, ran 20.67sec in Glasgow, where he estimates the track design adds 0.2sec. He wants Bruno Marie-Rose's world record of 20.36sec, set in Lievin in 1987, and believes the opposition may draw it out on the track where the Frenchman set it.

Looking ahead to Lievin, Regis said: "The more quality in that race, the more chance that record is going to go, and not just by a couple of hundredths. That time could come down to 20.20/20.30." Johnson is in world record form: on Friday he broke the 400 metres mark with 44.97sec in Nevada. As a regular at Lievin, it would be surprising if he was not there.

Fredericks has been training in Australia with Christie. "We are both world champions. He taught me things, I taught him things," Christie said after his 6.56sec in Glasgow. Travelling back from Perth, Christie shared a flight with the England cricketers, though he does not yet look ready to share with them the experience of defeat.

Jackson's first defeat in 45 hurdles races, in Madrid last Thursday, has become the subject of a protest by Sue Barrett, his manager. She has written to Spanish officials questioning their reading of the photo-finish that gave Allen Johnson the verdict. The protest will be passed on to the International Amateur Athletic Federation for arbitration.

No photo was needed on Saturday. Jackson won in 7.39sec. For the Glasgow public there to see Scotland's finest, not only was there Neef but Tom McKean won the 800 metres and Brian Whittle clinched a 4 x 400 metres victory.

Results from Glasgow 34

Palmer churns up World Cup waters

By Craig Lord

VICTOR he was not, but Paul Palmer, in finishing second to the former world champion, Jorg Hoffmann, in the 1,500 metres freestyle, emerged in triumph at the World Cup swimming meeting in Sheffield last night.

He fired a volley of deserved criticism at officialdom after taking British distance freestyle swimming into uncharted waters with a 14min 47.45sec effort, 7sec inside the national record and 6.24sec behind the German.

It was hard for any swimmer to stand out amid a two-day torrent of records — four world, two European, two Commonwealth and five British — yet this most talented of Britain's young prospects for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta was notable as he passed Graeme Smith, the existing British record-holder, with 200 metres to go.

Smith, of Stockport and Scotland, was rewarded with a Scottish record of 7min 51.52sec at 800 metres and another of 14min 50.94sec at full distance, well within his former national record. Palmer spent much of last year beset by illness and ignored by the sport's governing body.

He said: "I haven't heard from the ASA [Amateur Swimming Association] in over a year. I got the impression that they were wiping their hands clean of me."

Now, both Palmer and Smith, whose times were the second and third fastest in the world behind Hoffmann this year, have their sights set on Atlanta and the European championships in Vienna in August along the way.

Marie Hardiman, Adam Ruckwood and Susan Rolph also set British records yesterday, but Mark Foster and Martin Harris were disqualified for faulty starts, the penalty most damaging to Foster, who stands runner-up in the World Cup sprint freestyle category with two rounds to go. On Saturday he had set a world short-course record of 23.55sec in the 50 metres butterfly.

Results, page 34

Distinguished cast fails to mask Harlequins' shortcomings

John Hopkins on a 10-9 defeat by Bristol that edges a famous club closer towards relegation

Best: phlegmatic

HARLEQUINS should not have lost to Leicester in October, but they did. They should have beaten Gloucester in November, but they did not. They should have sent Sale packing in January, but allowed them a draw. In short, this had been a wretched season for Harlequins even before they were beaten by Bristol at the Stoop Memorial Ground on Saturday.

What on earth does one say now after this defeat, by a goal and a penalty goal to three penalty goals, their eighth from 12 games in the Courage Clubs Championship this season? It must be agony to support Harlequins these days. They are the biggest under-achievers in first-class rugby.

Harlequins is a club with a distinguished reputation, a squadron of stars and an outstanding coach. Though the ground is drab, the club is anything but. One indication that they are a cut above average is the size of the medical team — four doctors and four physiotherpists. Another is that the club offers a scholarship for an under-21 player to go to play in New Zealand for one year. It is called the Harlequins Gentlemen Under-21 Scholarship. With all that is going for it, why does this distinguished club lose so many matches?

"They haven't got a tight five," Brian Hanlon, the Bristol coach, said after his side's sixth victory over Harlequins in the league. This will raise some eyebrows, considering that Brian Moore, the England hooker, and Jason Leonard, the loose-head prop who won his 36th consecutive cap for England in the match against France, are both Harlequins. "It doesn't matter who they've got playing for them. Carling, Moore and Leonard, we don't worry about them," Hanlon said. "This is our fourth win in a row against them."

Dick Best is two months and one week into his reign as director of rugby with Harlequins. He took a deep breath when he heard what Hanlon had had to say. "I think he had better take that up with Moore and Leonard, two thirds of England's front row. They seemed to do all right against France," he said.

Best's view is that Harlequins are begining to play better. "It's a marathon, not a sprint. It will go all the way down to April 29," he said with a degree of sang-froid that not everyone shares. "When you lose a series of matches by one point then you are going to be in the lower end of the table." This was the fourth league game of the season that Harlequins have lost by four points or fewer.

Best refrained from having another go at the Rugby Football Union for what he considers the daft idea of losing his England players to training sessions the week before an international. On this theme, Best is boring. And besides, it was done for him by an anonymous club official in the programme.

If Harlequins are demoted to the second division — they are bottom but one, level with West Hartlepool and three points ahead of Northampton — they could lose £500,000 in gate receipts as well as considerable sponsorship. Performance in the league has become vital in terms of attracting sponsors and spectators through the turnstiles. For example, Bristol earn 90 per cent of their gate takings from the 18 league games.

As darkness closed in at the Stoop, one man hurried through the gloom, head down, face like thunder. It was Moore, the captain of Harlequins, returning to his club after the England training session at Twickenham. One would not have liked to have caught the rough edge of his tongue if the look on his face was anything to go by.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Penalty goals: Challinor (3). Bristol: Try: Wring. Conversion: Tainton. Penalty goal: Tainton.

HARLEQUINS: J Staples, G Thompson, P Mensah, W Greenwood, S Bromley, P Challinor, R Kitchin, S Brown, J Hamilton-Smith, A Mullins, M Russell, B Davison, P Thresher, R Jenkins, C Sheasby.

BRISTOL: P Hull; G Sharp, N Smith, D Wring, A Williams, M Tainton, M Newall, A Ozdemir, A Lathrope, D Hinkins, R Armstrong, P Adams, S Shaw, D Eves, I Patten.

Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset)

Spectre of relegation haunts Franklin's Gardens as Turner directs Sale to victory

Northampton pay for trying to make the running

Northampton	9
Sale	22

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

EVERY step that Northampton take in the Courage Clubs Championship will be a painful one from now on, despite the fact that the bottom three clubs all lost on Saturday and the first division changed scarcely at all.

Three points adrift in the relegation hot spot, they have only two more home league games, against Orrell and Wasps, whom they can hardly be confident of beating, with or without their internationals. Visits to Bristol, Gloucester, West Hartlepool and the other prime candidates for relegation, Harlequins, are a less than encouraging prospect.

How ironic that, a couple of years ago, Paul Turner paid a visit to Barrie Corless, then the director of coaching at a vibrant Franklin's Gardens, to see how an ancient rugby name had gained a modern sheen. Turner, making his way into coaching administration with Sale, was happy to absorb knowledge; the sort of wisdom that he still dispenses weekly on the field. Turner and his club have waited nearly six months for their first away win in the first division. That it arrived thanks to one of their more muted displays, a penalty-ridden affair in which they could never establish themselves in the opposing 22 for long, is neither here nor there.

"We knew Northampton were desperate to win and that we had to match them for commitment and attitude," Turner said. "This is a giant step for us but we are on a roll now. We have signed David Scully [the England A scrum half, from Wakefield] and we are talking to other players."

Welsh he may be, but Turner takes pride in the fact that the three northern clubs in the division are proving wrong the doubting Thomases who tipped them for demotion. His direction — what he calls his "shouting and screaming", which less extrovert Englishmen tend not to do — has been crucial to Sale's progress and, though he is still troubled by a groin injury, he does not look like concluding his playing career just yet.

In contrast, Justyn Cassell, the Northampton captain for the day, could point accurately to naive mistakes from his younger colleagues that helped Sale to victory. But it is not so easy to sympathise with his view that "we can pull out of it. The side can only get better when we have our four internationals [Rodber, Bayfield, Hunter and Walton] back." By then it may be too late, particularly if the decision-making behind the scrum remains so poor.

Full rugby results and league tables . Page 34

It may behove Northampton to start playing the game as tightly as possible, for their own preservation. They have an energetic administration and a large and enthusiastic crowd, the trappings of success, and they have a team which, if it stays together as it promises to do, will mature into a positive side. But the players have to rid themselves of the frills that look attractive but, on days of mud, wind and rain, are meaningless.

So often the work of individuals such as Allen, Clarke and Cassell was wasted. A coach as meticulous as Ian McGeechan will have found it hard to digest defeat in which all three Sale tries came from Northampton possession, the first when they were penalised and turned their backs as Sale tapped and ran, to such good effect that Mallinder and Baxendell were able to work Yates over from 70 metres for his first league try.

But only 12 minutes remained when Northampton leaked the lead that had been theirs from the three penalties kicked by Grayson downwind. First they conceded position by running out of their own 22 and losing the ball, at a time when their lineout was waxing stronger against the hitherto dominant Fowler and Baldwin. The upshot was a close-range penalty and an unstoppable charge by Ashurst, who earlier, along with his former colleague at Orrell, Hynes, had received a yellow card after a spiteful exchange at a scrum.

The denouement was Thorneycroft, all of 100 metres from the opposing try-line, choosing not to touch down Turner's kick ahead but to run into midfield, lose the ball in a tap-tackle and leave Stocks with an easy run-in. Stronger men than the Northampton committee would have wept. Last week they were having to unpick an additional sponsor's logo from three sets of club jerseys to adhere to advertising regulations. They must hope that everything else is not about to unravel, too.

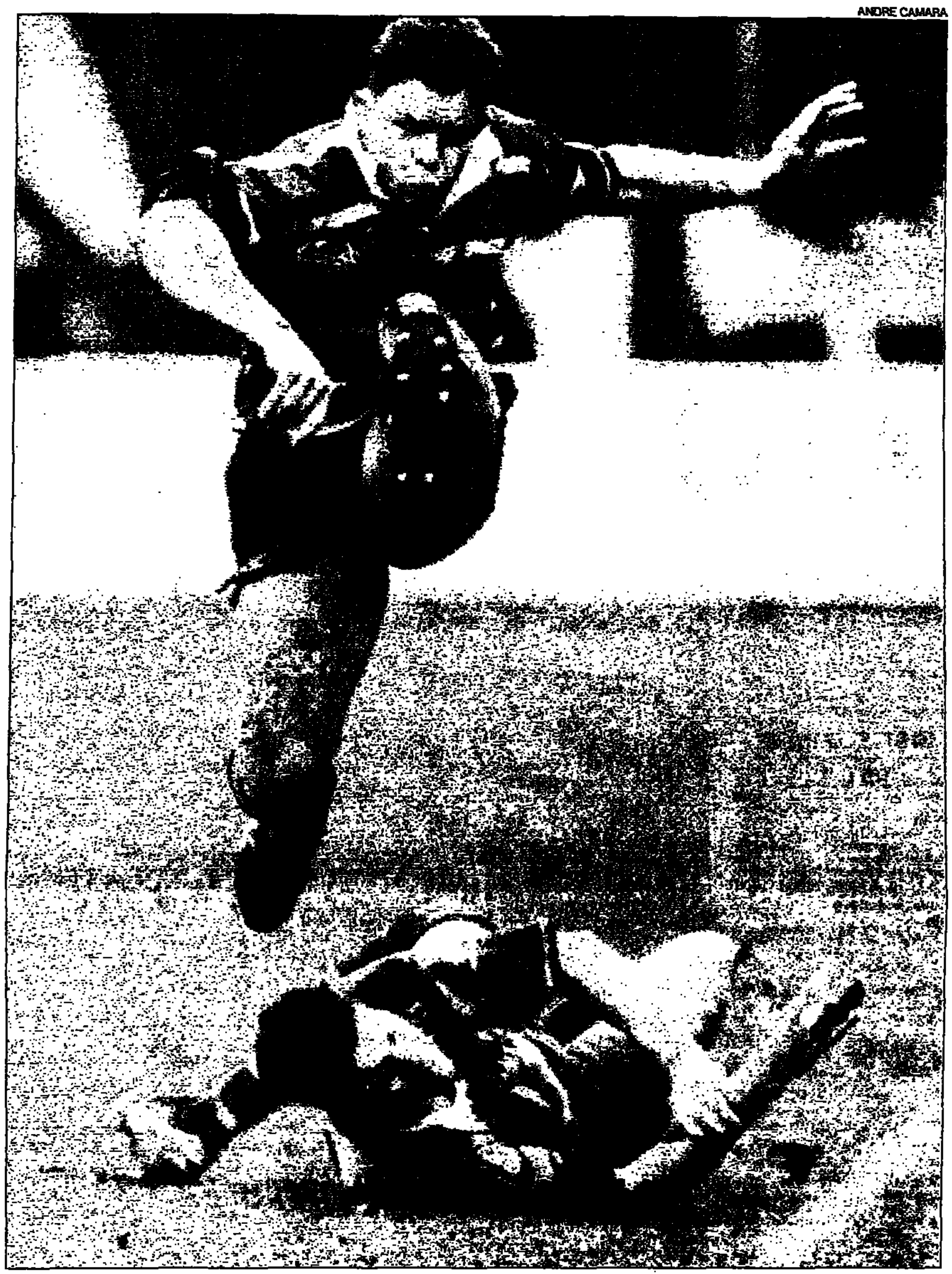
SCORERS: Northampton: Penalty goals: Grayson (3). Sale: Tries: Yates, Ashurst, Stocks. Conversions: Turner (2). Penalty goal: Turner.

NORTHAMPTON: N Beal, C Moir, F Packman, M Allen, H Thorneycroft; P Grayson, M Dawson, M Hynes, A Clarke, M Lewis, J Cassell, J Phillips, S Foale, A Pountney, G Seely. Phillips temporarily replaced by G Webster (28-31min).

SALE: J Mallinder, M Appleson, J Baxendell, G Stocks, C Yates, P Turner, C Saverimutto, P Smith, S Diamond, A Smith, D Erskine, D Baldwin, J Fowler, N Ashurst, C Vyvyan. P Smith temporarily replaced by L Hewson (33-37).

Referee: E Morrison (Bristol)

ANDRE CAMARA



Thorneycroft, the Northampton wing, kicks for touch under pressure during the defeat by Sale

Bath fail to find finished article

Orrell	6
Bath	6

By Christopher Irvine

ON THE same afternoon, five miles apart, the respective colossi of the two rugby codes were within minutes of surrendering proud records. Bath and Wigan have a contempt for losing that distinguishes them in their separate fields. As relieved as both were to draw, compromise does not come easy to either.

At the union outpost of Edge Hall Road, the home side had cursed its luck against the same opponent in the Pilkington Cup two weeks earlier. Good fortune on this occasion came Bath's way courtesy of Gloucester's defeat of Leicester.

Typically, though, Bath reflected on the point that got away rather than the three points by which they now lead the Courage Clubs Championship. A fifth successive league title is beginning to look a foregone conclusion, but Bath are not content unless they are winning.

As they have days like Saturday perhaps only once or twice a season, they need not be unduly worried. Two-thirds of what Bath did was pretty good, securing enough possession to win several times over, but the elusive third — finishing the job off — was frustratingly beyond them.

If Sleightholme had held on as he reached for the Orrell line just after the restart, it might have opened the floodgates. Instead, it set a tone. In the rain and mud, Callard could land only two of five penalty attempts, the second five minutes from the end, and for all the sapping yardage created by their irrepressible mauling, Orrell's last-ditch tackling was a carefully aimed spanner in the works. Having lost two forwards in the first half — Cundick and the unfortunate Cleary with a broken arm — Orrell did well with their backs to the wall. Sammy Southern is an unlikely-looking Peter Pan of rugby but, at 42, he knows a thing or two about scrummaging.

Steve Lander, the Liverpool official new to England's panel this season, will handle his first five nations championship match when he referees Scotland v Wales at Murrayfield on March 4.

The floodlights might not work, the electronic scoreboard blew a fuse and insisted on a 7-6 victory by the home side and the press box was awash, but doughty Orrell, thanks to a valuable point, should be around in the first division next season to sink their Sky television cheque into something more valuable than the ridiculous insistence on crush barriers.

Langford withstood Bath's high-ball test, Healey's kicking from hand was a precious adjunct to lifting the siege, and as outstanding as he was at the heart of the maul, Ojomoh usually met the embrace of Huxley, who made a fine home league debut.

With the calibre of player coming in, international absences were no excuse for Bath's lack of imagination. Catt was there and was partly the problem at stand-off. Jack Rowell, the England manager, would prefer him to play more at full back, to where Catt's mind was perhaps wandering with thoughts of Cardiff on Saturday.

SCORERS: Bath: Penalty goals: Callard (2). Orrell: Penalty goals: Langford (2)

ORRELL: S Langford, J Naylor, I Wynn, P Johnson, A Healey; G Ainscough, D Morris; P Winstanley, M Scott, J Cundick, D Cleary, C Cooper, C Cusani, J Huxley, S Bibby. Cundick replaced by D Southern (19 min). Cleary replaced by C Brierley (37 min)

BATH: J Callard, S Geoghegan, P de Glanville, I Lewis, J Sleightholme; M Catt, M Olsen; D Hilton, G Dawe, C Clark, A Robinson, M Haag, N Redmond, E Peters, S Ojomoh. Robinson temporarily replaced by E Pearce (31-36).

Referee: R Rees (London)

Saracens head off resolute pursuers

Saracens	10
Wakefield	3

By Jack Bailey

SARACENS duly overcame the dreadful conditions and the infidel, in the shape of a Wakefield team that clung tenaciously to every yard of rain-sodden mud. With this victory by a goal and a penalty to a penalty, they stole eight points clear at the top of the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship.

It was a match that meant a lot to both teams, with just one promotion spot available. Both teams gave everything in the cause and, granted the circumstances, produced an amazingly open game.

Never renowned for its light, springy turf, the Green Road pitch was a quagmire. A strong wind, accompanied by driving rain, swept the length of the ground. Yet there was enough adroit handling and nifty footwork on display to gladden hearts. Since first-phase possession was dominated by Saracens, it brought out in Wakefield some spectacularly resolute tackling.

Saracens, with the elements in their favour in the first half, enjoyed a handsome territorial advantage founded upon their dominance of the lineout and numerous attempts by their breakaways to force a way through the centre. Saracens were foiled only by low, first-time tackling.

Had Andy Tunningley's place-kicking matched his other talents, long spells in Wakefield's half would have been better rewarded, three kickable penalties going begging. Jackson seized on Wakefield's only chance midway through the half and it was not until the stroke of half-time that Saracens drew level when Tunningley finally struck the ball true from 30 yards.

Considering the amount of possession Saracens had achieved, these were slim pickings. But tackling is tiring work and Wakefield had done more than their fair share. Furthermore, Saracens at last realised that one clean lineout catch in these conditions is worth ten tap-backs.

By guarding the ball more jealously, they were able to make sporadic but telling incursions into Wakefield's 25. From one of these, a close passing move among the forwards, Green crashed over midway through the second half.

Thereafter, Wakefield hammered away at the Saracens line as the players became almost indistinguishable. Not so uniform, though, that you could fail to discern Terry Garnett, Wakefield's hooker, in the thick of everything, or appreciate the deft touches of Richard Petyt as the Saracens defence was stretched almost to breaking point.

SCORERS: Saracens: Try: Green. Conversion: Tunningley. Penalty goal: Tunningley. Wakefield: Penalty goal: Jackson.

SARACENS: A Tunningley; P Harries, R Thompson, D Dooley, P Butler; A Lee, B Davies; R Andrews, G Botterman, S Wilson, M Langley, M Burrow, J Green, R Hill, A Diprose

WAKEFIELD: M Jackson, P White, P Maynard, A Metcalf, R Thompson, R Petyt, D Scully, R Latham, T Garnett, A Day, P Stewart, S Croft, N Green, K Yates, M Sowerby

Referee: A Rosall (Liverpool)

Gloucester grind down Leicester's spirit

Gloucester	9
Leicester	3

By Bryan Stiles

DEAN RICHARDS was on his knees in the Kingsholm mud receiving treatment a long way from the action as Leicester were making their final, vain assaults on Gloucester's line on Saturday. He looked a figure of dejection as it became clear that his team was about to lose and give the champions, Bath, a bigger lead in the Courage Clubs Championship.

There is still hope, however. Bath dropped a point against Orrell, and they lead the table by three points instead of the expected four.

When it comes to movers and shakers, Richards generally cannot be bettered. He is the colossus who can usually be relied upon to move a few scrums and shake a lot of defences. He certainly did more than his share here, but it was not enough. Gloucester had seen him coming and devised a "knock 'em down quick" strategy that took much of the effectiveness out of the rolling mauls that Richards and his forwards use as the bedrock for victory.

"We knew we had to stop them getting started on their rolling mauls," Barrie Corless, the Gloucester director of rugby, said. "We saw how they mauled Bristol a fortnight ago and we planned on tackling and tackling to stop them getting into their stride. It worked."

Victory by three penalty goals to one gave Gloucester the points and the psychological lift they needed in a season that has seen them struggle in the league and knocked out of the Pilkington Cup. "We have many fine quality players at Gloucester, but we have not been getting the results," Corless said. "Having now beaten one of the leading teams it will hopefully provide the mental breakthrough we need."

Gloucester have open, 15-man rugby on their agenda, but Saturday was not the day to try to produce it. Grinding forward play, backed by sure tactical kicking, were the imperatives, and Gloucester supplied both. It was not pretty, unless you happen to be a Gloucester supporter starved of success, and the team was justly proud of its achievement.

"Don't say we won because the Underwood brothers weren't playing," Andy Deacon, the Gloucester captain, pleaded. The Underwoods must have felt much better being out of a gluepot of a pitch, but they might have added the spark of imagination that Leicester lacked as their usually reliable playmaker, Harris, was completely off form.

The Underwoods, like Martin Johnson, had stood down because of England's match against Wales next Saturday, but it was probably Johnson's ball-winning skills in the lineout and his expertise in the close encounters that Leicester missed most.

All the points came from penalty goals, Osborne kicking two for Gloucester before the interval and another, to match one by Harris, in the second half.

Richards might now be regretting not calling up Harris to kick at goal more often in the last quarter, when Gloucester were giving away handfuls of penalties. His obsession with driving forward play might have cost his side the match.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Penalty goals: Osborne (3). Leicester: Penalty goal: Harris

GLOUCESTER: T Smith; P Holford, L Osborne, D Caskie, S Morris, M Kimber, B Fenley; A Powles, J Hawker, A Deacon, P Glanville, D Sims, R West, I Smith, M Teague.

LEICESTER: J Liley, S Hackney, D Edwards, S Potter, A McAdam; J Harris, A Kardooni, G Rowntree, C Johnson, D Garforth, J Wells, M Poole, T Smith, N Back, D Richards

Referee: D Piercy (Yorkshire).

Wasps rewarded by Braithwaite's late show

Wasps	33
West Hartlepool	22

By Barry Trowbridge

NATIONAL service, a bout of flu and a coach's confidence combined to give Chris Braithwaite a rare opportunity to wear the Wasps No 10 shirt on Saturday. With two tries and three conversions in the final 25 minutes, he more than repaid the faith placed in him as the race intensified at the top of the Courage Clubs Championship.

Deprived of Rob Andrew, by England duty, and of Guy Gregory with the flu bug that also laid low Phil Hopley and Norman Hadley, Rob Smith, the coach at Sudbury, could have taken the conservative option and called the evergreen and ever-reliable Huw Davies into the side. Instead, Braithwaite, at 9am on Saturday, got the nod.

His inclusion meant that Wasps began the match with eight men aged 23 or younger — a ninth, Andy Gomarsall, replaced Jon Ufton after 24 minutes — and it was the triumph of youth in a game that could easily have gone West Hartlepool's way, that pleased Smith even more than the results from Edge Hall Road and Kingsholm. "Considering the disruption we had this week, it really was a fantastic performance," Smith said.

With Steve Bates steadying things at scrum half, Nick Popplewell relishing life in a pack going forward and Matt Greenwood, at lock, as mobile as his back row in the loose and dominant in the lineout, the young element was led by example. The willingness, however, of Nick Greenstock and Peter Scrivener, both 21, to take big hits as Wasps strove for openings, set the standard.

As long as Tim Stimpson was kicking penalty goals, which he did to great effect with the wind behind him, West were in the game, but it took them 20 minutes to utilise fully the conditions and a half-time lead of 22-7 proved too slender.

Both hookers scored tries in the first half, a reflection of the tight play, but once Wasps had reached optimum efficiency, after about an hour, the interplay between forwards and backs was of such a high standard that, with numbers starting to fade under a coat of Sudbury mire and very few players where they should be, it became difficult to identify accurately just who was doing what.

Four forwards each thrust infield to open up the narrow side for Braithwaite's first try when Wasps opted for a scrummage at a penalty ten metres out, and one of them, Dallaglio, scored the second himself after Roiser broke down the right and linked with Wilkins. With their tails up, Wasps went striaght back to the West 22, where Dallaglio fed Childs for a simple score on the left; then, with two minutes remaining and West looking to run the ball from a deep position, Braithwaite snatched an interception to seal their fate.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: Delaney, Braithwaite (2), Dallaglio, Childs. Conversions: Ufton, Braithwaite (3). West Hartlepool: Try: Herbert. Conversion: Stimpson. Penalty goals: Stimpson (5).

WASPS: J Ufton; S Hunter, N Greenstock, G Childs, S Roiser; C Braithwaite, S Bates; N Popplewell, P Delaney, I Dunston, L Dallaglio, R Kinsey, M Greenwood, C Wilkins, P Scrivener. Ufton replaced by A Gomarsall (24min).

WEST HARTLEPOOL: T Stimpson, O Evans, A Elwine, P Hodder, S Jones; K Whitaker, D Patterson, P Lancaster, T Herbert, P Beal, D Mitchell, J Dixon, T Jaques, A Brown, R Wainright.

Referee: S Lander (Liverpool)

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

GLASGOW: Indoor international: GB v France: Men: 60m: 1, L Christie (GB) 6.56; 2, N Gums (Fr) 6.70; 3, M Rosswess (GB) 6.72. 200m: 1, J Regis (GB) 20.67; 2, S Wariso (GB) 21 19; 3, C Chaval (Fr) 21.47. 400m: 1, M Hylton (GB) 47.06; 2, J Farraudiere (Fr) 47.34; 3, B Whittle (GB) 47 60. 800m: 1, T McKean (GB) 1:48.72; 2, M Steele (GB) 1:48.95; 3, T Caquelard (Fr) 1:49 05. 1500m: 1, E Dubus (Fr) 3.41 66; 2, I Grime (GB) 3:43:30; 3, G Graham (GB) 3:46:97. 3000m: 1, J Carter (Fr) 7.58.03; 2, S Green (GB) 8:03.82; 3, N Bosch (Fr) 8:05.95. 60m hurdles: 1, C Jackson (GB) 7.39; 2, T Jarrett (GB) 7.44; 3, V Clarico (Fr) 7.78. 4x400m relay: 1, GB 3:09.28; 2, France 3:09.81. High jump: 1, D Detchenique (Fr) 2.23; 2, B Reilly (GB) 2.20; 3, J-C Gicquel (Fr) 2.20. Long jump: 1, K Klouchi (Fr) 7.65; 2, J Munroe (GB) 7.65; 3, O Borderan (Fr) 7 61. Triple jump: 1, J Herbert (GB) 16.50; 2, A Garfield (Fr) 16.22; 3, J Golley (GB) 16 18. Pole vault: 1, A Andji (Fr) 5.30; 2, P D'Encausse (Fr) 5.30; 3, M Barber (GB) 5.20. Shot: 1, M Proctor (GB) 18 39; 2, J-L Lebon (Fr) 17.69; 3, L Newman (GB) 16 65.

Women: 60m: 1, S Douglas (GB) 7.21sec; 2, P Girard (Fr) 7.24; 3, P Thomas (GB) 7.28. 200m: 1, P Thomas (GB) 23 42; 2, F Ficher (Fr) 23 64; 3, N Caine (Fr) 24 02. 400m: 1, M Neef (GB) 53 67; 2, M-L Bevis (Fr) 53 71; 3, S Earnshaw (GB) 54.16. 800m: 1, P Djate-Taillard (Fr) 2:02.99; 2, S Bowyer (GB) 2:04:83; 3, A Hunte (GB) 2:08:49. 1,500m: 1, F Quentin (Fr) 4:18 04; 2, M Faherty (GB) 4 18.65; 3, L Gibson (GB) 4 22.02. 3000m: 1, L Duquenoy (Fr) 9:20 49; 2, Z Hyde (GB) 9:22 07; 3, D Gunning (GB) 9:29.92. 60m hurdles: 1, J Agyepong (GB) 8 08; 2, M Tourret (Fr) 8 13; 3, C Court (GB) 8.21. 4x400m relay: 1, GB 3.37.60; 2, France 3.38 58. High jump: 1, K Courgeon (Fr) 1 86; 2, D Marti (GB) 1.86; 3, L Haggett (GB) 1 83. Long Jump: 1, D Lewis (GB) 6 35m; 2, A Mahob (Fr) 6 21; 3, S Gautreau (Fr) 6 18. Triple jump: 1, M Griffith (GB) 13 76; 2, C Honore (Fr) 13.26; 3, R Kirby (GB) 13.15. Pole vault: 1, K Staples (GB) 3 60; 2, C Oberson (Fr) 3 50; 3, C Ammel (Fr) 3 40. Shot: 1, J Oakes (GB) 17.15; 2, M Lynes (GB) 16 08; 3, A Lelievre (Fr) 15 71.

Match result: Great Britain 155 France 122.

TOKYO: International marathon: 1, E Wainaina (Ken) 2hr 10min 31sec; 2, A Niemczak (Pol) 2.10.44; 3, N Kioko (Ken) 2:10 47.

LISBON: IAAF cross-country: Men (10km): 1, P Guerra (Por) 29min 21sec; 2, O Osoro (Ken) 29.23; 3, D Castro (Por) 29 37; 4, J Pinheiro (Por) 29 48; 5, R Mohamed (Mor) 29:53. Women (6km): 1, G Szabo (Rom) 19min 31sec; 2, F Ribeiro (Por) 19:33; 3, P Radcliffe (Eng) 19 44; 4, T Lorupe (Ken) 20:10; 5, J Chepchumba (Ken) 20.12.

BADMINTON

NORWICH: National championships: Men: Semi-finals: D Hall (Essex) bt A Bush (Wilts) 15-3 15-3; A Nielsen (Surrey) bt M Constable (Warwicks) 15-5 15-10. Women: Semi-finals: A Humby (Hants) bt J Muggeridge (Kent) 11-6 11-4; J Mann (Warwicks) bt S Hore (Hants) 11-4 11-5.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham 87 (Dorsey 28, Samuels 26, Lloyd/Simms 13) Derby 77 (Belka 18, Siemon/Landell 17); Leicester 93 (Tresvant 34, Waldron 25, Scott 12) Hemel 83 (Koochof 26, Noel 14, Keenan 11); Sunderland 102 (Saunders 53, Douglas 22, Hopper 10) Doncaster 113 (Fife/Bale 23, Jones 20); Thames Valley 97 (Bucknall 22, Holley 18, Scantlebury 17) Chester 82 (Gardner 24, Bannister 16, Johnson 15); Worthing 73 (Irish 27, Cunningham 22, Hamed/Lewis 7) Sheffield 84 (Cauthorn 27, Huggins 18, Finch 13).

BOBSLEIGH

WINTERBERG: World championships: 1, C Langen (Ger) 3.46.91; 2, P Lueders (Can) 3.48 68; 3, E Alard (Fr) 3:48 72.

BOWLS

LIBERTY TROPHY: Semi-finals: (Nottingham) Cumbria bt Norfolk 125-99; (Reading) Wiltshire bt Buckinghamshire 137-117.

BOXING

FRANKFURT: International Boxing Federation light heavyweight championship: Henry Maske (Ger) bt Egerton Marcus (Can) pts.

PRETORIA: World Boxing Organisation flyweight championship: A Jimenez (Mex) bt J Matiala (SA) rsc 8th

CRICKET

One-day A international
India v England

INDORE: India A beat England A by six runs

INDIA A

†S S Dighe c Hemp b Cork	12
*V S Rathore c Nixon b Gallian	29
A A Muzumdar c Weekes b Chapple	79
R S Dravid b Stemp	5
S C Ganguly c Nixon b Gallian	0
R Shamshad c Stemp b Weekes	28
A S Wassan b Cork	18
U Chatterjee not out	7
P L K Mhambrey not out	2
Extras (lb 8, w 8, nb 5)	21
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	201

S A Ankola and K Singh did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-60, 3-73, 4-75, 5-145, 6-173, 7-197

BOWLING: Cork 10-0-53-1; Chapple 10-0-47-1; Johnson 9-1-33-0; Gallian 9-0-21-2; Stemp 10-1-34-1; Weekes 2-0-5-1

ENGLAND A

J E R Gallian lbw b Wassan	1
D L Hemp b Wassan	26
M R Ramprakash c Dighe b Singh	36
*A P Wells c Dighe b Chatterjee	10
N V Knight c Dighe b Chatterjee	9
P N Weekes c Dravid b Chatterjee	33
D G Cork c Rathore b Chatterjee	25
†P A Nixon run out	20
G Chapple run out	6
R L Johnson b Wassan	0
R D Stemp not out	1
Extras (b 2, lb 11, w 8, nb7)	28
Total (49 overs)	195

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-49, 3-70, 4-88, 5-113, 6-144, 7-169, 8-183, 9-186.

BOWLING: Mhambrey 10-2-35-0; Wassan 10-1-47-3; Ankola 10-1-33-0; Chatterjee 10-1-32-4; Singh 9-1-35-1.

Second Test match
New Zealand v West Indies

WELLINGTON (third day of five): New Zealand are 392 runs behind West Indies with seven second-innings wickets in hand

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

B Young lbw b Walsh	29
D Murray lbw b Ambrose	52
A Jones c Murray b Walsh	0
*K Rutherford lbw b Dhanraj	22
S Fleming c Lara b Walsh	47
S Thomson b Walsh	8
†A Parore c Adams b Walsh	32
M Hart c Lara b Dhanraj	0
M Su'a c Murray b Walsh	6
S Doull b Walsh	0
D Morrison not out	0
Extras (lb 14, b 1, nb 7)	22
Total	216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-52, 3-108, 4-135, 5-160, 6-196, 7-197, 8-207, 9-211.

BOWLING: Ambrose 19-9-32-1; Walsh 20.4-7-37-7; Dhanraj 33-6-97-2; Benjamin 12-1-35-0.

Second innings

B Young b Walsh	0
D Murray not out	13
A Jones lbw b Benjamin	2
*K Rutherford lbw b Ambrose	5
S Fleming not out	28
Extras (nb 4)	4
Total (3 wkts)	52

S Thomson, †A Parore, M Hart, M Su'a, S Doull and D Morrison to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-3, 3-15.

BOWLING: Walsh 3-1-6-1; Benjamin 5-0-20-1; Ambrose 5-1-17-1; Dhanraj 2-1-9-0.

WEST INDIES: First innings

S C Williams c Parore b Doull	26
S L Campbell c Su'a b Morrison	88
B C Lara lbw b Morrison	147
J C Adams c Su'a b Doull	151
K L Arthurton run out	70
S Chanderpaul not out	61
†J R Murray not out	101
Extras (6 lb, 10 nb)	16
Total (5 wkts dec)	660

C Ambrose, *C Walsh, K Benjamin and R Dhanraj did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-65, 2-134, 3-355, 4-448, 5-521.

BOWLING: Morrison 29-5-82-2; Su'a 44-4-179-0; Doull 37.2-5-162-2; Hart 46-4-181-0; Jones 13-2-50-0.

CYCLING

MANCHESTER: International meeting: Grand Prix sprint: 1, M Nothstein (US) 11 410 bt R Chiappa (It). Motor paced (15km): 1, C Boardman (GB) 15min 39 713sec. Motor paced (B race 10km): 1, T Doyle (GB). Motor paced (race C, 15km): 1, E De Wilde (Bel). Motor paced (race D, 10km): 1, Madsen. Devil-Take-The-Hindmost: 1, K Khrabzov (Russ). Devil-Take-The-Hindmost (B race): 1, B Risi (Switz). Devil-take-the-hindmost (race C): 1, J-M Monin (Fr). Devil-take-the-hindmost (race D): 1, R Williams (GB). Points race (10km): 1, Khrabzov 19pts. Points race (10km): 1, J Dauwe (Belgium) 22pts. Elite madison (30km): 1 P Bincoletto-F Villa (It) 22pts. Pursuit (4,000m): Boardman 4:38 030 bt T Rominger (Switz) 4:38.244. One-lap time trial (250m): 1, Nothstein 13.258sec. Keirin: 1, Nothstein. Scratch race (7.5km): 1, A Stirrat (GB). Scratch race (3km): 1, J Solt (US). Women: Scratch race (6km): 1, J Eickhoff (US). Points race (10km): 1, Eickhoff 23. Sprint: 1, I Haringa (Hol).

TIME-TRIALS: Ely and District CC hardriders' (Cambridgeshire, 25 miles): 1, J King (Pro Circuit MTB), 1hr 0min 21sec; 2, G Mason (Mildenhall CC), 1:00.46; 3, M Meades (CC Romford) 1:01:49. Team: Cambridge Univ CC, 3 15 22. Kingston wheelers sporting (Ripley, 14 miles): 1 M Marchant (GS Stella), 34 33. Team: Twickenham CC, 1 48 39. Bejasss wheelers (Bedfordshire, 18 miles): D Stare and D Jennings (Leicester Univ), 44:26

ROAD RACE: Pedal race (Rowland's Castle, 45 miles): M Markowski (VC Bayeux), 1:52:30

CYCLO-CROSS: Hinckley CRC (Nuneaton, 12 miles): 1, S Knight (Halesowen A and CC), 56 00. Dartford wheelers (Maryon Wilson Park, 12 miles): 1, C Young (Rocky Mountain), 1:08.04. Bishop Auckland CC (Helton Lyons, 12 miles): 1, S Noble (Stockton Wheelers), 1:02:00. Humberside forum (Sewerby Hall, Bridlington, 14 miles): 1, R Thackray (Bradford Olympic RC), 1:01:00. Beeston RC (Nottingham, 9 miles): 1, D Baker (Team GT), 54:05.

GOLF

JOHANNESBURG: Men's tournament: Final scores (SA unless stated): 275: R Goosen 70, 65, 70, 70. 280: E Els 72, 65, 72, 71. 283: M McNulty (Zim) 68, 72, 71, 72; M Christie (US) 71, 72, 67, 73. 284: S van der Merwe 74, 72, 70, 68. 285: J Bland 71, 70, 68, 76. 286: W Schutte 74, 75, 68, 69; M Gortana (It) 71, 67, 77, 71; F Quinn (US) 71, 72, 70, 73. 287: B Weir (US) 73, 75, 69, 70; A Johnstone (Zim) 66, 74, 75, 72; M Harwood (Aus) 73, 70, 72, 72. 288: S Dunlap (US) 77, 69, 73, 69; R Kaplan 71, 76, 73, 68. 289: A Cruse 72, 72, 75, 70; R Wessels 71, 71, 79, 68. 290: S Hendley (US) 69, 76, 72, 74. 291: V Phillips (GB) 73, 75, 69, 74

LA JOLLA: Men's tournament: Third round scores (US unless stated): 201: P Jacobsen 68, 65, 68. 204: H Sutton 67, 69, 68; K Triplett 69, 69, 66. 205: D Pohl 65, 74, 66; M Calcavecchia 71, 67, 67; M Hulbert 70, 65, 70. 206: P Stewart 66, 73, 67; B Crenshaw 73, 64, 69; B Chamblee 66, 66, 74. 207: D Pruitt 69, 70, 68; J Huston 69, 71, 67; R Black 69, 71, 67; S Lowery 68, 69, 70; T Armour 69, 67, 71; N Henke 68, 66, 73; D Paulson 67, 68, 72

ADELAIDE: Men's tournament: Final scores (Australian unless stated): 275: T Elliott 68, 71, 66, 70. 278: J O'Keefe (US) 68, 71, 70, 69; A Painter 70, 68, 70, 70. 280: P McWhinney 72, 72, 68, 68. 281: A Stolz 73, 69, 71, 68; C Gray 68, 72, 69, 72. 282: T Hamilton (US) 74, 72, 69, 67; M Long (NZ) 67, 78, 71, 66; S Laycock 73, 69, 71, 69. 283: L Parsons 76, 69, 70, 68

PHEONIX: Men's tournament: Final scores (GB unless stated): 281: C Gibson (US) 69, 71, 71, 70. 289: H Gardner (US) 73, 72, 72, 72. 293: M Slater 75, 75, 71, 72. 294: S Daly 73, 68, 74, 73; B Waites 83, 73, 57, 71; R Weir 75, 79, 68, 74; R Brown 70, 73, 75, 73.

LAGUNA QUAYS: Australian skins tournament: Hole 1: Halved in par, J Daly and P Senior. 2: Halved in par, Daly and Senior. 3: Halved with birdies, T Watson and C Parry. 4: Halved in par, Watson and Parry. 5: Halved in par, Daly and Parry. 6: Won by Daly, birdie. 7: Halved in par, Watson and Parry. 8: Halved in par, Parry and Senior. 9: Halved with birdies, Watson and Parry. 10: Halved in par, Daly and Senior. 11: Halved with birdies, Daly and Senior. 12: Won by Senior, birdie. 13: Halved in par, Watson and Parry. 14: Won by Watson, birdie. 15: Halved with birdies, Parry and Senior. 16: Halved with birdies, Senior and Parry. 17: Won by Senior, eagle. 18: Won by Senior, birdie. Overall: 1, Senior; 2, Daly; 3, T Watson; 4, C Parry

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): NY Islanders 2 Buffalo 1; Washington 1 Boston 1 (OT); Quebec 5 Ottawa 2; Florida 4 Hartford 3; Philadelphia 3 New Jersey 1; Pittsburgh 3 Montreal 1; NY Rangers 3 Tampa Bay 2; Los Angeles 5 Toronto 2; Calgary 6 Dallas 0; Winnipeg 3 St Louis 2; Vancouver 1 San Jose 1 (OT).

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke 3 Cardiff 8; Edinburgh 9 Whitley 6; Fife 10 Peterborough 7; Milton Keynes 5 Bracknell 5; Nottingham 8 Humberside 4; Sheffield 8 Durham 3. First division: Chelmsford 4 Paisley 8; Lee V5 Trafford 6; Medway 10 Dumfries 4; Swindon 18 Blackburn 3; Telford 6 Solihull 3

CHALLENGE: Slough 7 Guildford 9.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Czech Rep 3 Canada 1.

ICE SKATING

PROVIDENCE: US figure skating championships: Men: 1, T Eldredge 2.0; 2, S Davis 2.5; 3, A Nielsen 5.5. Women: 1, N Kobel 2.0; 2, M Kwan 3.5.

LACROSSE

MEN: South flags: Semi-finals: Purley 4 Kenton 10; Hillcroft 14 Bath 6. Shepherd's Friendly Society: North: First division: Sheffield 7 Timperley 15.

WOMEN: Territorial tournament: South 18 Midlands 3; East 2 West 3; Comb Univ 5 North 6; Comb Univ 7 Midlands 3; West 5 North 4; South 8 Comb Univ 4; East 8 Midlands 4; South 3 West 3

NETBALL

BEDFORD: International match: England 58 Ireland 20. U21: England 70 Ireland 14.

NORDIC SKIING

HOLMENKOLLEN: World Cup: Cross-country: Men 4 x 10km race: 1, Finland 49:48 0; 2, Sweden 49.48.2; 3, Norway 49:56 8. Women: 4 x 5km relay: 1, Russia 58:23 1; 2, Norway 58:52.9; 3, Russia II 59:51 0

RALLYING

KARLSTAD: Swedish rally: Final positions: 1, K Eriksson (Swe, Mitsubishi) 4 51.27; 2, T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi) at 12sec; 3, T Radstrom (Swe, Toyota) 1:07.

SHOOTING

SURBITON: Women: Smallbore: 1, Civil Serv 1,928; 2, Army 1,884; 3, Royal Navy 1,865

SNOOKER

WEMBLEY: Masters: Semi-finals: J Higgins (Scot) bt J White (Eng) 6-1; R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 6-4.

SPEED SKATING

CALGARY: World Cup: Men: 500m: 1, M Horii (Japan) 36.07; 2, Y-M Kim (S Kor) 36.10; 3, H Shimizu (Japan) and S-J Jaegal (S Kor) 36.26. 1,000m: 1, Y Miyabe (Japan) 1:12.91; 2, K Scott (Can) 1 12.95; 3, S-J Jaegal (S Kor) 1:12.97. Women: 500m: 1, S Auch (Can) 39 15secs; 2, B Blair (US) 39.18; 3, K Shimazaki (Jap) 39 47. 1,000m: 1, B Blair (US) 1:18.72; 2, C Witte (US) 1:19 39; 3, S Volker (Ger) 1:20.22

BASELGA DI PINE: Men's world championships: 500m: 1, H Noake (Japan) 37.91sec; 2, D Carta (It) 37 94; 3, R Ritsma (Hol) 38 42. 1,500m: 1, R Ritsma (Hol) 1:53.31; 2, K Shirahata (Japan) 1:53.39; 3, N Marshall (Can) 1:53.86. 5,000m: 1, F Dittrich (Ger) 6min 56.66sec; 2, R Taubenrauch (Ger) 6.59 66; 3, T Nozaki (Japan) 7.01.84.

SWIMMING

SHEFFIELD: World Cup meeting: Men: 50m freestyle: 1, C Fydler (Aus) 22.64. 100m freestyle: 1, M Foster (Cardiff) 48.84sec. 200m freestyle: 1, D Loader (NZ) 1:45 23 (Commonwealth record). 400m freestyle: 1, D Loader (NZ) 3:40.46 (world record). 1,500m freestyle: 1, J Hoffmann (Ger), 14.41.21; 2, P Palmer (GB), 14:47.45 (British record). 50m backstroke: 1, J Rouse (US) 24.64. 100m backstroke: 1, J Rouse (US) 53 34. 200m backstroke: 1, E Merisi (It), 1.56.20; 2, A Ruckwood (GB), 1.56.41 (British record). 50m breaststroke: 1, P Rogers (Aus) 28.29. 100m breaststroke: 1, Rogers 59.70. 200m breaststroke: 1, P Rogers (Aus) 2:09.65. 50m butterfly: 1, M Foster (Cardiff) 23.55 (world record). 100m butterfly: 1, M Klim (Aus) 53.47. 200m butterfly: 1, C C Bremer (Ger) 1:56 19. 100m medley: 1, C Keller (Ger) 55.86. 200m medley: 1, Keller 1:59 26. 400m medley: 1, M Malinsky (Pol) 4:14.49. Women: 50m freestyle: 1, R Elwani (Egypt) 25.69; 2, S Rolph (GB) 25.49. 100m freestyle: 1, R Elwani (Egypt) 54.74. 200m freestyle: 1, M Limpert (Can) 1:58.96. 400m freestyle: 1, J Jung (Ger) 4:07.48; 2, S Hardcastle (GB) 4:09 89. 800m freestyle: 1, Jung 8:27.07. 50m backstroke: 1, S Volker (Ger) 27.67 (European record). 100m backstroke: 1, S Volker (Ger) 59.75 (European record); 3, E Tattam (GB) 1:01.89. 200m backstroke: 1, A Scholz (Ger) 2:11.02. 50m breaststroke: 1, D Ainenkiel (Pol) 32 16. 100m breaststroke: 1, D Wade (Aus) 1:08 42. 200m breaststroke: 1, M Hardiman (GB), 2:27.76 (British record). 50m butterfly: 1, A Kennedy (Aus), 27 07. 100m butterfly: 1, A Kennedy (Aus) 59.55. 200m butterfly: 1, M Smith (Ire) 2:09.13. 100m medley: 1, A Kennedy (Aus), 1:01 87; 2, S Rolph (GB) 1:02.15 (British record). 200m medley: 1, M Limpert (Can) 2:12.25. 400m medley: 1, Wilson 4:40.41; 3, V Horner (GB) 4.46.82.

TENNIS

MARSEILLE: Men's tournament: Semi-finals: B Becker (Ger) bt O Delaitre (Fr) 6-4, 6-2; D Vacek (Cz) bt L Roux (Fr) 6-1 7-5. Final: Becker bt Vacek 6-7, 6-4, 7-5.

SAN JOSE: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: M Chang (US) bt G Rusedski (Can) 7-6, 7-6; M Washington (US) bt B Shelton (US) 6-2, 6-1; A Agassi (US) bt B MacPhie (US) 6-4, 6-3; J Courier (US) bt J Grabb 6-1, 7-6. Semi-finals: Agassi bt Washington 6-4, 6-2; Chang bt Courier 4-6, 7-6, 6-4

BRAMHALL: LTA men's indoor tournament: Final: T Johansson (Swe) bt P Fredriksson (Swe) 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

CHICAGO: Women's tournament: Semi-finals: M Maleeva (Bul) bt G Sabatini (Arg) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3; L Raymond (US) bt Z Garrison-Jackson (US) 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

SHEFFIELD: Women's tournament: Final: O Ivanova (Rus) bt L Ahl (GB) 6-3, 6-4.

RACING

NEWBURY

Going: heavy

1.10 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, Hill Trix (A Tory, 6-1); 2, Lo Stregone (13-8 jt-fav); 3, Don't Tell The Wife (13-8 jt-fav). 6 ran. NR: Forest Sun. 5l, 2½l. K Bishop. Tote: £6 70; £2.50, £1.30. DF: £6.30. CSF: £15.61.

1.40 (2m 1f ch) 1, Nakir (J Osborne, 5-2); 2, Snitton Lane (9-1). Viking Flagship 2-5 fav (f). 3 ran. 30l. S Christian. Tote: £3 20. DF: £2.90. CSF: £11.57

2.15 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Mysilv (J Osborne, 9-4 fav); 2, Trying Again (5-2); 3, Pridwell (8-1). 8 ran. ¾l, 10l. C Egerton. Tote: £3 10; £1 40, £1 60, £1 60. DF: £6 50. CSF: £7.90. Tricast: £32.28

2.45 (3m ch) 1, Petoski (T Jenks, 4-1); 2, Mr Sunbeam (20-1). Mad Thyme 13-8 fav (ur). 6 ran. 4l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £4 40; £1.60, £4 20. DF: £39 80. CSF: £50 15. Only 2 finished

3.15 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Gillan Cove (A Maguire, 100-30 fav); 2, Just A Second (33-1); 3, Royal Piper (4-1). 13 ran. 10l, 2l. R Alner. Tote: £3 60; £1 90, £5 60, £2 40. DF: £73 70. Trio: £220 00. CSF: £90 64. Tricast: £422.66.

Jackpot: £6,472.10.

Placepot: £208.50.

Quadpot: £42.80.

☐ Remainder of meeting abandoned because of waterlogging.

AYR

1.50 1, Youandi (11-10 fav); 2, Craigie Rambler (50-1); 3, Meadowleck (33-1). 12 ran. NR: Naughty Nessie

2.20 1, Pit Pony (12-1); 2, Sheelin Lad (4-7 fav). 5 ran. NR: Vestal Hills

2.50 1, Ask Me Later (5-1); 2, Tharsis (5-1); 3, Gindigo (9-4). Milno's A Villan 7-4 fav. 6 ran.

3.20 1, Ali's Alibi (2-5 fav); 2, Funny Old Game (9-4). 2 ran

3.50 1, Water Baron (12-1); 2, Mary's Feelings (50-1); 3, Up In Flames (7-2). Lvaro 4-6 fav (f). 6 ran. NR: Lucky Nod

4.20 1, Nawrik (5-4 fav); 2, Carousel Rocket (3-1); 3, Boreen Owen (8-1). 4 ran. NR: Duchess Of Tubber, Truely Royal

4.50 1, Nicholas Plant (7-2); 2, Cluncan (11-4); 3, Explore Mondial (14-1). Sarmatian 5-2 fav. 6 ran.

Placepot: £6,773.50. Quadpot: not won (pool of £59.60 carried forward to Southwell today).

CATTERICK

1.55 1, Rua Ros (9-1); 2, D'Arblay Street (11-4 jt-fav); 3, Shoofe (9-2). South Westerly 11-4 jt-fav. 9 ran.

2.25 1, Merry Mermaid (9-2); 2, Chowpor (14-1); 3, Peep O Day (9-2). Fabriana 4-1 jt-fav. 15 ran. NR: Emilymoore, Tcpothenorthracing.

2.55 1, Another Red (20-1); 2, Highland Poacher (12-1); 3, Golden Savannah (20-1). Golden Isle 11-8 fav. 6 ran. NR: Dual Image, North Pride, Scotch 'n Irish.

3.25 1, Superhoo (13-2); 2, Hot Punch (10-1); 3, Milton Rooms (5-1). Space Captain 3-1 fav. 16 ran. NR: Cruising Chick, Joynder

Placepot: £1,363.

Quadpot: £35.30.

☐ Remainder of meeting abandoned because of waterlogging

LINGFIELD PARK

2.05 1, Sleeptite (12-1); 2, Dancing Diamond (7-2 fav); 3, Ann Hill (12-1). 13 ran.

2.35 1, Dark Shot (10-11 fav); 2, Logie (7-1); 3, Death By Chocolate (10-1). 5 ran. NR: Ine Mon.

3.05 1, Kinnegad Kid (7-2); 2, Red Valerian (5-1); 3, Metal Storm (16-1). Legal Fiction 13-8 fav. 7 ran.

3.35 1, Grand Selection (7-4 fav; Richard Evans's nap and Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Docklands Courier (11-1); 3, Persian Conquest (4-1). 12 ran. NR: Friar's Oak.

4.05 1, Tribal Peace (5-1); 2, Pennine Wind (3-1); 3, Wisdom (11-2). Yet Again 6-4 fav. 8 ran.

4.35 1, Possibility (16-1); 2, Digpast (2-1 fav); 3, Respectable Jones (6-1). 12 ran.

Placepot: £16.60. Quadpot: £8.40.

☐ Uttoxeter abandoned because of waterlogging.

POINT-TO-POINT

Saturday

BADSWORTH (Wetherby Point Course): Confined: 1, Country Tarrogen (N Wilson, 4-7 fav); 2, Tammy My Girl; 3, Tobin Bronze. 17 ran. Open Mdn 5-7-y-o I: 1, Polynth (L Donnelly, 20-1); 2, Lord Ellerton; 3, Temmington. 17 ran. Open Mdn 5-7-y-o (Div II): 1, Murton Heights (N Tutty, 8-1); 2, Springhill Quay; 3, Castle Tyrant. 18 ran. Open Mdn 5-7-y-o III: 1, Implicitly Suzie (C Mulhall, 10-1); 2, Lillybrook; 3, Howayman. 14 ran. Ladies: 1, Pearade (Miss J Wormall, 7-1); 2, Carole's Delight; 3, Deep Dawn. 14 ran. PPOA Rest: 1, Wily William (N Wilson, 7-4); 2, Ubu Val; 3, Wally Wrekin. 14 ran. Open: 1, Gaelic Warrior (N Tutty, 33-1); 2, Bodfari; 3, Shoon Wind. 15 ran. Open Mdn 8-y-o+: 1, Tom Log (W Burnell, 6-4fav); 2, Rhythmical Beat; 3, Politico Pot. 12 ran. Hunt: 1, Acertainhit (D Pritchard, 10-11 fav); 2, My True Clown. Only 2 finished. 3 ran.

EASTON HARRIERS (Higham): Hunt: 1, Blue Beat (P Taiano, 1-4 fav); finished alone. 2 ran. Mdn I: 1, Oh So Vital (P Harding-Jones, 10-1); 2, Far View (Ire); 3, Cool Apollo (NZ). 11 ran. Mdn II: 1, Alsemero (G Cooper, 6-4 fav); 2, Timber's Boy; 3, Road To Cork (Ire). 17 ran. Open: 1, Shannon Glen (T McCarthy, 5-4 fav); 2, Ballyhyho; 3, Equity Player. 13 ran. Ladies: 1, Counterbid (Miss N Bothway, 7-2); 2, What A Gig; 3, Sound Of Jura. 13 ran. Intermediate I: 1, Bear's Flight (S R Andrews, 4-1); 2, Linred; 3, Aughrim Slopes. 15 ran. Intermediate II: 1, Bright As A Button (G Tarry, 2-1); 2, Craftsman; 3, Corrado. 15 ran. Confined: 1, Who's Fooling Who (S R Andrews, 3-1); 2, Flashy Buck; 3, Tara Boy. 20 ran.

SOUTH MIDLANDS AREA HUNT CLUB (Heythrop): Hunt: 1, Sirisat (K Hollowell, 20-1); 2, Madam Advocate; 3, What A To Do. 15 ran. Open: 1, Carrots (M Jones, 7-2); 2, Welsh Singer; 3, Space Man. 14 ran. Ladies: 1, Stephens Pet (Miss A Dare, 4-6 fav); 2, Finally Fantazia; 3, East River. 16 ran. Rest: 1, Tattlejack (E Walker, 4-1); 2, Hill Island; 3, Sands Of Gold. 22 ran. Mdn (Div I): 1, Fresh Prince (T Jones, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Arble March; 3, Tea Cee Kay. 14 ran. Mdn (Div II): 1, Swordella (A Martin, 9-2); 2, Wild Wedding; 3, Bilbo Baggins. 10 ran. Mdn III: 1, Miss Isle (Miss S Duckett, 7-2); 2, Saxon Lass; 3, Dukush. 12 ran

☐ South Dorset abandoned.

Yesterday

TWESELDOWN CLUB HUNT (Tweseldown): 1, Grand Value (Ms S Dawson 33-1); 2, Roc De Prince; 3, Wrekin Hill. 8 ran. City of London: 1, Teatrader (R Russell 11-10 fav); 2, Yahoo; 3, Little Island. 5 ran. Open: 1, Brown Windsor (B Pollack 5-4 jt fav); 2, Wheal Prosper; 3, Regal Estate. 8 ran. Maiden 1: 1, Adare To Win (J Greenall 4-1); 2, Celtic Blaze; 3, Caracol. 14 ran. Moderate: 1, Sky Venture (P Bull 20-1); 2, Dalametre; 3, Gentleman's Jig. 16 ran. Maiden 2: 1, Killarney Lass (Ms S Sadler 8-1); 2, Sound Statement; 3, No Reply. 17 ran.

HOCKEY

HA CUP: Fifth round: Formby 3 Firebrands 3 (AET Formby won 5-3 on penalty strokes); Guildford 8 Warwick 0; Hampstead and Westminster 2 Richmond 3; ISCA 7 Spencer 4 (AET. Score at full-time 3-3); Neston 0 Barford Tigers 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second division: St Albans 3 Crostyx 2.

DELHI: Indira Gandhi Gold Cup: Seventh place play-off: South Africa 4 Poland 1. Fifth place play-off: England 2 Malaysia 2 (England won tie-breaker 5-3). Semi-finals: India 2 Australia 2 (India won tie-breaker 3-0); South Korea 2 Kazakhstan 1

Third place play-off: Australia 3 Kazakhstan 1. Final: India 1 South Korea 3.

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford 4 Wimbledon 3; City Of Portsmouth 0 High Wycombe 2; Dulwich 3 Old Whitgiftians 2; Fareham 0 Spencer 2; Gore Court 2 Anchorians 0; Maidenhead 1 Woking 0; Old Kingstonians 2 Lewes 1; Old Walcountians 1 Lyons 1; Oxford Hawks 2 Staines 1; Winchester 1 Chichester 1. Regionals: Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham 0 City Of Oxford 0; Aylesbury 1 Gerrards Cross 1; Headington 2 Bracknell 1; Newbury 2 Marlow 0; OMT 2 Mill Hill 0; PHC Chiswick 1 Milton Keynes 0; Ramgarhia 0 Hayes 0; Richings Park 5 HCC 0; Sunbury 0 Hendon 0; Wokingham 1 Eastcote 0. Hampshire/Surrey: Basingstoke 6 Pirelli 0; Bournemouth 3 Barnes 0; Cheam 1 Purley 3; Hamble OB 1 Fleet 1; Lensbury 2 Epsom 3; London University 4 Weybridge Hawks 2; Merton 0 O Mid Whitgiftians 6; O Edwardians 2 Camberley 0; Oxted 1 Oxshott 1; Petersfield 4 Southampton Tauntonians 0.

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bluharts 2 Peterborough Town 0; Cambridge Univ 0 Ipswich 7; Chelmsford 2 Bishops Stortford 0; Dereham 1 Redbridge and Ilford 1; Luton 0 Colchester 9. Premier Division B: Ipswich and East Suffolk 4 Stevenage 1; Norwich City 0 Bedford 2; Pelicans 1 Old Southendian 1; Romford 2 Westcliff 2; Sudbury 1 Bury St Edmunds 2.

NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding 2 Norton 2; Blackburn 0 Timperley 0; Formby 0 Hightown-Northern 0; Harrogate 1 Stockton 0; Southport 3 Warrington 2.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper 2 Khalsa 2; Bloxwich 2 Nottingham 3; Lichfield 1 Harbourne 7; Leicester Westleigh 1 Hampton-in-Arden 1; North Notts 0 Olton and West Warwickshire 1.

SUN LIFE LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheltenham 1 Swansea 1; Exeter Univ 6 West Wilts 2; Hereford 2 Bath Buccaneers 1; Weston-Super-Mare 1 Plymouth 1. Postponed: West Glos v Taunton Vale.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Balsam Leicester 0; First Personnel Sutton Coldfield 0; Bracknell 0 Ipswich 1; Chelmsford 2 Clifton 2; Slough 1 Hightown 0. First division: Bradford Swithenbank 5 Exmouth 1; Ealing 1 Bluharts 1; Wimbledon 2 Canterbury 1. Postponed: Trojans v Doncaster. Second division: Great Harwood 3 Sunderland Bedans 3; St. Albans 0 Sherwood 2; Loughborough 1 Pickwick 0; Woking 0 Olton 2.

AEWHA CUP: Fourth round: Bradford Swithenbank 3 Leyland Motors 0; Canterbury 2 St Albans 0; Chelmsford 4 Hendon 1; Ealing 1 Welton 0; Exmouth 2 Loughborough Students 1; First Personnel 1 Slough 3; Harleston Magpies 5 Hampton-in-Arden 0; Hightown 1 Wimbledon 0; Ipswich 7 Woking 1; Newcastle 0 Aldridge 3; Pickwick 3 Farnborough 0; Sherwood 2 Deeside Ramblers 0; Sunderland Bedans 2 Balsam 3; Trojans 2 Bracknell 0; Wigan 2 Southampton 0; Winchester 2 Tulse Hill 1.

AEWHA PLATE: Third round: Camberley 8 Welwyn Garden City 0; Crimson Ramblers 4 Ben Rhydding 0; Crosby 1 Milton Keynes 0; Havant 2 Green Dragons 0; Kettering 6 Atalanta 0; Liverpool 4 Pavlors 2; North Staffs 0 York 2; Norwich City 0 West Witney 6; Oldham 0 Cheam 1; Pelicans 0 Bexleyheath 1; Pressed Steel Fisher 5 Brentwood 0; Shrewsbury 1 Barnes 2; Wallington 0 West Bromwich 1; Whitley Bay 0 Chester 0; Wimborne Wayfarers 4 Letchworth 1; Winchmore Hill 2 Yate 2 (Yate win 3-2 on pens).

WELSH LEAGUE: Aberystwyth University 0 Cardiff Athletic 15; Colwyn Bay 0 Penarth 2; Haverfordwest 3 Llanfair 7; Newtown 0 Swansea 1. Postponed: Wrexham v Newport. Sunday: Colwyn Bay 1, Newport 2; Haverford West 3, Newtown 3; Llanfair 7, Aberystwyth University 0; Swansea 2, Cardiff Athletic 0; Wrexham 0, Penarth 5. Standings: 1, Swansea, 15-29; 2, Penarth 16-23; 3, Newtown 16-22.

EAST LEAGUE: Cambridge City 1 Bexleyheath 0; Old Loughtonians 2 Saracens 1; Redbridge 0 Sevenoaks 1; WGC 0 Harleston M 1.

MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Belper 1 Peveril 0; Crimson R 0 Hampton 0; Kettering 6 Tamworth 0; Wolverhampton 1 Wooldridge 2.

NORTH LEAGUE: Chester 1 Ormskirk 0; Liverpool 3 Crosby 0; Poynton 0 Don Valley 0; York 0 Newcastle 2. Standings: 1 Poynton 23 2 Don Valley 17 3 Chester 14.

SOUTH LEAGUE: City of Portsmouth 2 Worthing 2; Dulwich 4 Hendon 3; Guildford 2 Southampton 1; Havant 1 Winchmore Hill 2; West Witney 4 Ealing B 1; Winchester 0 Reading 4.

WEST LEAGUE: Leominster 1 St Austell 0; Cheltenham 2 Yate 1; Gloucester 0 Weston-super-Mare 0; East Gloucs 3 Colwall 0; Exeter 0 Bournemouth 1.

SCHOOLS SPORT

Pupils from Brentwood School, in Essex, are put through their paces during a school coaching session. Photograph: Hugh Routledge. Report page 31

Rugby Union

Daily Mail under-15 Cup: Fourth round: King Henry VIII, Coventry 10 Durham 22

Other matches: Chichester HS 43 Lancing 10; Reigate 3 Hampton 12.

Football

FA Premier League Trophy: Under-19: Leicestershire 1 West Midlands 2. Under-16: Cleveland 1 Lancashire 3; Greater Manchester 4 West Yorkshire 0

English-Eagles Trophy: Under-14: Quarter-finals: Brighton 4 Sutton 1; Croydon 3 South East Sussex 5; Gravesham 1 Bromley 5.

Sussex Shield: Under-14: Mid Sussex 9 West Sussex 1.

Geerts Trophy: Under-15: West Sussex 3 North Sussex 1.

English Croydon Cup: Under-16: West Sussex 4 Brighton 2

Southern League: Vale of White Horse 3 Porstmouth 1; Mid Oxon 2 Havant 5.

Haugh Trophy: Under-12: South East Sussex 6 Sutton 2

Harewood Trophy: Under-14: South Notts 1 Leicester 1.

Leicester Mercury Trophy: Under-13: South Notts 2 Leicester 0.

Cheshire Senior Cup: Under-15: Halton 2 Tameside 0; Mid Cheshire 5 Trafford 2.

Northern Merit: Under-15: Salford 0 Sefton 2.

Alcock Cup: Under-14: Mid Cheshire 1 Trafford 3

Snowden Cup: Under-14: Halton 0 Sefton 4.

Welsh Glyncoed Shield: Under-14: Cardiff 5 Rhymney Valley 6; Kirkby Knowsley 4 Anglesey 0.

Welsh Yeoman Shield: Quarter-final: Wolverhampton 4 South Ceredigion 0.

English Schools Snickers Trophy: Under-16: Second round: Darwen Vale H S, Lancashire 1 Swanwick Hall, Derbyshire 1

Welsh Mitre Shield: Under-13: Cardiff 3 Swansea 0.

Sherwood Forest League: Sutton 1 Nuark 0

Inter Associations: Under-15: South Notts 3 Leicester 2; Stoke 0 Chester 1. Under-14: Liverpool 2 Barnsley 3

Fencing

Warwick School: British Youth Championships: Boys: Under-14 epée: 1, N Hocking (Southern); 2, K Cook (Scotland East); equal 3, C Swift (East Midlands) and J Benham (Southern). Under-16 epée: 1, P Grabham (South West); 2, D Tredger (South East); equal 3, J Watt (Scotland East) and T Roebuck (Southern). Under-18 epée: 1, T Wagstaff (Southern); 2, J Walker (Eastern/Brentwood); equal 3, A Gerrard (Southern) and A Sparey (South East). Under-14 sabre: 1, T Benny (South West); 2, O Coultrup (Eastern); equal 3, S Jessop (West Midlands) and L Bond-Williams (West Midlands). Under-16 sabre: 1, R Knight (Eastern); 2, M Johnson (West Midlands); equal 3, S Whitbread (West Midlands) and J Sturgeon (Eastern). Under-18 sabre: 1 C Bunford (Southern); 2, M Wright (Scotland East); equal 3, L Campbell (Scotland East) and N Walder (South East); 5, A Williams (Eastern/Brentwood). Girls: Under-14 epée: 1, S Corbett (South West); 2, J Neil-McLandlan (Scotland East); equal 3, S Martin (South West) A Harrod (East Midlands). Under 16-epée: 1, R Ashley (East Midlands); 2, D Bunford (Southern); equal 3, Z Hughes (West Midlands) and M Witfield (Southern). Under-18 epée: 1, E Sheppeard (Wales); 2, F Carr (West Midlands); equal 3, K France (South West) and B Coffin (South West)

Hockey

Cranbrook 3 King's, Canterbury 2; Dulwich 0 St George's Weybridge 5; Trinity, Croydon 6 Skinners 0; Bluehearts 1 Queenswood 4; St Albans 1 Queenswood 2.

Cycling

SOUTHAMPTON: CA National Cyclo-Cross Championships: Over-15 (5m): 1, J Allaway (Reading College) 39min 0sec; 2, A Moorhouse (Stockton Sixth Form) at 16sec; 3, C Atkins (Barton Peveril) at 39. Team: Holy Family, Keighley. Under-15 (4m): 1, M Robinson (Holy Family) 27.27; 2, P Snelling (Private Member) at 30; 3, R Taylor (Bramcote Hill) at 45. Under-13 (3m): 1 J Carr (Arnwood Comp) 24.03; 2, M Tunnell (Edenham High) at 2:42; 3, W James (Longfield High) at 2:56. Perfs Pedal race (45m): 1, M Markowski (VC Bayeux) 1 52:30; 2, P Wilkes (Dinnington) same time; 3, M Lacey (Twickenham) same time.

Squash

WELWYN GARDEN CITY: Under-16 Home International championships: Boys: Final positions: 1, England; 2, Scotland; 3, Ireland; 4, Wales. Final Results: England 5 Scotland 0 (J Russell bt D Knowles 9-3, 9-1, 9-2; A Grant bt N MacKinnon 9-3, 9-0, 9-4; C Wheat bt S Halliday 7-9, 9-2, 9-3, 9-2; J Smith bt S Hall 9-2, 9-0, 9-3; J Abbas bt K McBreany 9-0, 9-1, 9-3). Girls: Final positions: 1, England; 2, Scotland; 3, Ireland; 4, Wales. Final Results: England 5 Scotland 0 (T Bailey bt L Hamilton 9-3, 4-9, 9-3, 9-7; H Easton bt G Nimmo 5-9, 10-9, 9-0, 9-1; D Lloyd-Walter bt J Dickson 10-8, 9-1, 9-7; V Lancaster bt D Trail 9-5, 9-2, 9-0; L Briggs bt S Curtis 9-1, 9-0, 9-2).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Fourth round

Wigan 16 St Helens 16

Wigan: Tries: Betts, Hall, Tuigamala. Goals: Botica 2. St Helens: Tries: Hunte, Pickavance. Goals: Goulding 3. DG: Goulding, Pickavance. Att: 15,714

Beverley 20 Batley 30

Beverley: Tries: Owen 2, Edson, Sullivan. Goals: Hunter 2. Batley: Tries: Gallilan, McWilliams, Moxon, Tomlinson, Walker, Wilson. Goals: Wilson 3. Att: 2,600

Carlisle 2 Widnes 40

Carlisle: Goal: Richardson. Widnes: Tries: Collier, Devereux, Hadley, Hammond, D Hulme, McCurrie, P Smith, Wright. Goals: Hadley 4. Att: 1,100

Doncaster 12 Sheffield 22

Doncaster: Tries: Neal, Williamson. Goals: Green 2. Sheffield: Tries: Briggs, Garrison, Sheridan, Stott. Goals: Briggs 3. Att: 3,500

Featherstone 50 Barrow 22

Featherstone: Tries: Rodger 3, Calland 2, Gibson, Gary Price, Southernwood. Goals: Aston 9. Barrow: Tries: Phil Atkinson, Hannah, Robinson, Jamie Smith. Goals: Phil Atkinson 3. Att: 1,973

Huddersfield 38 Halifax 30

Huddersfield: Tries: Austin 2, Hanger 2, Taylor, Thomas. Goals: Kerry 6. Halifax: Tries: Hagger 2, Fieldhouse, Turner. Goals: Schuster 7. Att: 5,545

Hunslet 32 Salford 32

Hunslet: Tries: Close 2, G Southroyd, Mick Coyle, Lee Pell. Goals: Fell 4. Salford: Tries: Ford 2, Blakeley, Marsden, Jonathan Sugar, Tyrer. Goals: Blakeley 4. Att: 1,112

Keighley 24 Dewsbury 12

Keighley: Tries: Pinkney 2, Cochrane, Irving, Robinson. Goals: Irving 2. Dewsbury: Try: Rombo. Goals: Agar 4. Att: 3,788

Leeds 31 Bradford 14

Leeds: Tries: Harley 2, Mercer 2, Holroyd. Goals: Holroyd 5. DG: Schofield. Bradford: Tries: Clark, Medley. Goals: Fox 2. DG: Fox. 2. Att: 15,095

London Broncos 20 Hull K R 26

London Broncos: Tries: Johnson, Pitt, Stewart. Goals: Gallagher 4. Hull K R: Tries: Brown 2, Chamberlain, Crane, Plange. Goals: M Fletcher 3. Att: 908

Oldham 70 Bramley 10

Oldham: Tries: Abram 2, Gartland 2, Gibson 2, Ranson 2, Belle, Davidson, Mersh, Topping. Goals: Martyn 11. Bramley: Tries: Greenwood, Parks. Goal: Creasser. Att: 2,723

Ryedale York 18 Rochdale 12

Ryedale York: Tries: Deakin, Thomas. Goals: Precious 4. DG: Dobson, Precious. Rochdale: Try: Churm. Goals: Street 4. Att: 1,005

Warrington 17 Castleford 2

Warrington: Tries: Barlow, Forster, McGuire. Goals: Davies 2. DG: Davies. Castleford: Goal: Crooks. Att: 6,073

Whitehaven 24 Wakefield 12

Whitehaven: Tries: Friend, Routledge, Seeds, Smith. Goals: L Anderson 4. Wakefield: Tries: Flynn, McGowan. Goals: Wright 2. Att: 2,020

Workington 30 Hull 6

Workington: Tries: Burns, Drummond, Mulligan, Pape, R Phillips. Goals: Marwood 5. Hull: Try: Danby. Goal: Hewitt. Att: 3,081

Postponed: Swinton v Leigh.

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Third round: Batley Victoria 15 Nags Head 12; Bisons 24 Fryston 16; Brassmoulders 20 Beverley 0; Brighouse R 0 Thatto Heath 18; Cardiff Sea Eagles 19 Ackworth 15; Chequerfield 6 Kippax 4; Clayton 30 Mysons 4; Cleckheaton 4 Walney C 16; Crown Malet 3 Broughton 0; Dewsbury N 0 Lowca 36; Dewsbury C 24 Leeds Social 20; Dewsbury A 0 Wath Brow Hornets 26; Dudley Hill 28 Westfield Hotel 6; Eastmoor 18 Eccles 10; Elland 10 Seaton 8; Ellenborough 40 Houghton 4; Farnworth 25 Egremont 0; Featherstone M W 28 Ship Inn 15; Glasson R 14 East Leeds 22; Hensingham 16 Wigton 0; Hull Dockers 36 Wigan Tech 0; Knottingley 0 Greetland A R 32; Leigh Victoria 18 B R K 22; Leigh East 12 Frizington 11; Morley Boro 2 West Bank 10; New Earswick A B 32 Shaw 6; Orrell St James 4 Crosfields 8; Ossett Trinity 20 Drypool 6; Oulton 12 Dewsbury Moor 8; Ovenden 8 Skirlaugh 24; Peckham 0 Leigh Miners 80; Queensbury 18 Sowerby Bridge Robins 8; Rose Bridge 18 Rimby 28; Rossington 8 Middleton 10; Sharlston Rvs 9 York Acorn 13; Shaw Cross 12 Featherstone A 20; Siddal 16 Normanton 8; Stanley Rangers 2 Birkenshaw 34; Underbank 23 Keighley Albion 15; Upton and Frickley 12 Lock Lane 20; Walnut Warriors 13 Moldgreen 0; Waterhead 4 Woolston 34; Westgate Redoubt 26 Pilkingtons 6; Widnes St Maries 13 Barrow Island 12; Wigan St Judes 48 Crossgates 2; Wigan St Judes A 4 Mayfield 30; Worth Village 0 Halton Simms Cross 18.

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Gloucester 9 Leicester 3

Gloucester: Pens: Osborne 3. Leicester: Pen: Harris.

Harlequins 9 Bristol 10

Harlequins: Pens: Challinor (3). Bristol: Try: Wring. Con: Tainton. Pen: Tainton.

Northampton 9 Sale 22

Northampton: Pens: Grayson 3. Sale: Tries: Ashurst, Stocks, Yates. Cons: Turner 2. Pen: Turner

Orrell 8 Bath 6

Orrell: Pens: Langford 2. Bath: Pens: Callard 2

Wasps 33 West Hartlepool 22

Wasps: Tries: Braithwaite 2, Childs, Dellaglio, Delaney. Cons: Braithwaite 3, Ufton. West Hartlepool: Try: Herbert. Con: Stimpson. Pens: Stimpson 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	12	10	2	0	232	130	22
Leicester	12	9	1	2	277	185	19
Wasps	12	9	0	3	343	211	18
Bristol	12	6	0	6	221	231	12
Sale	12	5	1	6	242	254	11
Gloucester	12	5	0	7	180	192	10
Orrell	12	4	2	6	147	192	10
West Hartlepool	12	3	1	8	227	289	7
Harlequins	12	3	1	8	174	255	7
Northampton	12	2	0	10	166	270	4

LEADING SCORERS: 148: J Harris (Leicester; 11 conversions, 37 penalty goals, 5 dropped goals). 146: M Tainton (Bristol, 7c, 43pg; 1dg). 131: P Grayson (Northampton; 1 try, 6c, 37pg, 1dg). 107: J Callard (Bath; 10c, 29pg). 104: R Andrew (Wasps, 2t, 14c, 19pg, 3dg).

Second division

London Irish 23 Waterloo 3

London Irish: Tries: Bird 2, Henderson. Cons: Cathcart. Pens: Cathcart 2. Waterloo: Pen: Swindells.

London Scottish 28 Fylde 3

London Scottish: Tries: Clarke, Harrold, Holmes. Cons: Steele 2. Pens: Steele 3. Fylde: Pen: Parker

Newcastle Gos 38 Coventry 22

Newcastle Gosforth: Tries: Arnold, Douglas, Heatherington, Penn, Tetlow, Vanzandvliet. Con: Mason. Pens: Mason 2. Coventry: Try: Hancox. Con: Hart. Pen: Hart 5.

Nottingham 9 Moseley 9

Nottingham: Pens: Gallagher 3. Moseley: Pens: Hodgkinson 3.

Saracens 10 Wakefield 3

Saracens: Try: Green. Con: Tunningley. Pen: Tunningley. Wakefield: Pen: Jackson.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saracens	12	11	0	1	236	137	22
Newcastle G	12	7	0	5	274	176	14
London Irish	12	7	0	5	264	227	14
Wakefield	12	7	0	5	210	187	14
Waterloo	12	7	0	5	202	210	14
Nottingham	12	5	1	6	203	196	11
London Scottish	12	5	0	7	227	215	10
Moseley	12	4	1	7	172	224	9
Fylde	12	4	0	8	151	243	8
Coventry	12	2	0	10	164	288	4

LEADING SCORERS: 134: S Mason (Newcastle Gosforth; 1 try, 15 conversions, 32 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal). 129: M Jackson (Wakefield; 9c, 37pg). 115: M Corcoran (London Irish; 3t, 11c, 26pg).

Third division

Blackheath 9 Rosslyn Park 3
Exeter 12 Morley 12
Harrogate 8 Richmond 8
Otley 14 Clifton 3
Postponed: Bedford v Rugby.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedford	10	8	0	2	217	114	16
Otley	11	8	0	3	209	119	16
Blackheath	11	8	0	3	157	82	16
Harrogate	11	6	1	4	169	191	13
Rugby	10	5	0	5	156	154	10
Rosslyn Park	11	5	0	6	158	164	10
Morley	11	4	1	6	139	211	9
Clifton	11	4	0	7	150	195	8
Richmond	11	2	1	8	138	186	5
Exeter	11	2	1	8	100	187	5

LEADING SCORERS: 134: A Finnis (Bedford; 10 conversions, 35 penalty goals, 3 dropped goal). 127: P Rutledge (Otley; 3 tries, 11c, 30pg). 95: S Howard (Blackheath; 4c, 27pg, 2dg).

Fourth division

Aspatria 15 Broughton Park 0
Havant 10 Leeds 3
Liverpool St H 14 Askeans 3
Reading 29 Redruth 11
Postponed: Rotherham v Plymouth.

Fifth division north

Barkers Butts 6 Nuneaton 5
Preston 19 Sheffield 10
Stourbridge 0 Stoke 3
Postponed: Walsall v Birmingham/Solihull; Wharfedale v Lichfield; Winnington Park v Kendal.

Fifth division south

Barking 6 Lydney 18
London Welsh 29 Berry Hill 15
Met Police 23 Camborne 0
Sudbury 9 High Wycombe 31
Tabard 16 Basingstoke 3
Postponed: Henley v Weston-super-Mare.

LONDON: First division: Esher 23 Old Colfeians 8; Eton Manor 29 Maidstone 3; Ruislip 15 Old Mid-Whitgiftians 3; Streatham and Croydon 9 Sutton and Epsom 18; Southend 10 Camberley 28. Postponed: Ealing v Harlow.

SOUTH WEST: First division: Maidenhead 3 Gloucester OB 17; Newbury 32 Brixham 3; St Ives 11 Cinderford 10. Postponed: Barnstaple v Cheltenham; Salisbury v Taunton; Torquay v Sherborne.

MIDLANDS: First division: Bedworth 29 Camp Hill 9; Mansfield 24 Whitchurch 11; Syston 13 Wolverhampton 12; Towcestrians 8 Stafford 12; Westleigh 0 Derby 0. Postponed: Leamington v Burton.

NORTH: First division: Durham City 3 Stockton 9; Middlesbrough 19 Wigton 15; Sandal 9 Manchester 9; Tynedale 23 Hull Ionians 6; Widnes 25 York 16. Postponed: Bradford and Bingley v West Park Bramhope.

PILKINGTON SHIELD: Sixth round: North: Wallasey 19 Queens 33

Swalec Cup

Fifth round

Postponed: Tyenby United v Aberavon; Whitland v Mountain Ash

Heineken League

Second division

Llandovery 26 Bonymaen 10

Postponed: Maesteg v Narberth

Third division

Postponed: Blackwood v Aberavon Quins; Glamorgan Wanderers v Blaina; Kenfig Hill v Ystradgynlais; Mountain Ash v Builth Wells; Pontypool United v Caerphilly; Tondu v Tredegar.

McEwan's League

First division

Boroughmuir 8 Edinburgh Acads 9
Glasgow H K 17 Hawick 17
Gala 14 Jed-Forest 13
Heriot's FP 9 Watsonians 15
Stewarts Mel FP 13 Stirling County 27
West of Scotland 13 Melrose 28
Postponed: Dundee HSFP v Currie

Second division

Corstorphine 19 Edinburgh Wndrs 0
Haddington 0 Biggar 8
Kelso 22 Preston Lodge 12
Kirkcaldy 15 Wigtownshire 5
Musselburgh 30 Grangemouth 13
Peebles 6 Selkirk 18
Postponed: Gordonians v Glasgow Acads.

Insurance Corporation League

First division

Cork Con 6 Shannon 8
Garryowen 16 Old Wesley 19
Young Munster 3 Instonians 0
Postponed: St Mary's College v Dungannon; Sunday's Well v Lansdowne.

Second division

Ballymena 27 Dolphin 3
Malone 12 Old Crescent 20
Old Belvedere 3 Univ Coll Dublin 0
Postponed: Bective Rangers v Terenure Coll; Wanderers v Bangor.

Club matches

Cambridge Univ 34 West London Inst 5
Pontypridd 31 Cross Keys 3
(Abandoned after 65 min)
Cancelled: Abercynon v Treorchy; Dunvant v Neath; Newbridge v Ebbw Vale; Penarth v Newport; South Wales Police v Pontypool; Swansea v Cardiff; Llanharan Abertillery.

Women's internationals

England 25 Wales 0
Scotland 20 Ireland 3

GUIDE TO THE WEEK'S MAIN FIXTURES

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Carling Premiership
West Ham v Everton (8.0)

Vauxhall Conference
Stevenage v Kettering (7.45)

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second round: Merthyr v Bamber Bridge (7.0). Second-round replay: Kidderminster v Kingstonian (7.45).

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Unifilla First division Cup: Third round: Great Harwood v Fleetwood.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Carshalton v Bishop's Stortford.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Hednesford v Burton; Worcester v Dorchester.

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round replay: Portsmouth v Manchester City.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Lymington v Andover; BAT v Eastleigh.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea v Brighton (at Kingstonian, 7.0); Millwall v Wimbledon (2.0)

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Wolverhampton v Nottingham Forest (7.0). Second division: Bradford v Barnsley (7.0); Mansfield v Burnley (7.0); Newcastle v Preston (at Gateshead FC, 7.0).

RUGBY UNION

Club match
Abercynon v Bridgend (7.15)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance World Indoor Championships (Preston).

RACING: Southwell (2.10), Hereford (2.0).

SNOOKER: International Open (Bournemouth).

TENNIS: LTA women's satellite tournament (Sunderland)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Italian League v Football League (at Stadio Comunale).

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Second division: Brighton v Bristol Rovers (7.45); Wrexham v Chester. Third division: Chesterfield v Barnet; Fulham v Northampton (7.45).

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section: Semi-final: Crewe v Carlisle.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Runcorn v Southport (7.45)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Partick v Dundee Utd. First division: Airdrie v Clydebank. Third division: Caley This v Montrose; East Stirling v Albion

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Second division: Maesteg v South Wales Police.

CLUB MATCHES: Aberavon v Newbridge; Abercarn v Newport; Abercynon v Bridgend; Clifton v Bristol Univ; Lydney v RAF; Pontypool v Mountain Ash; Pontypridd v Penarth.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance World Indoor Championships (Preston).

BOXING: Commonwealth bantamweight championship: Johnny Armour (GB, holder) v Tsitsi Sokutu (SA) (Bethnal Green)

RACING: Lingfield Park (1.50), Leicester (2.0).

SNOOKER: International Open (Bournemouth).

TENNIS: LTA women's satellite tournament (Sunderland)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Republic of Ireland v England (at Lansdowne Road, 6.15)

COCA-COLA CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Liverpool v Crystal Palace (ITV, 8.0)

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Swindon v Bristol City (7.45).

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Army v Met Police (at Aldershot, 2.30); Surrey v Royal Navy (at London Irish, 7.30).

CLUB MATCHES: Berry Hill v Exeter Univ (7.0); Newcastle Gosforth v Newcastle Univ (7.30); Oxford Univ v Anti-Assassins (3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

JOHN SMITH'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: England v France (at Gateshead, Sky, 7.30).

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bradford v Featherstone; Doncaster v Oldham; Widnes v Workington. Second division: Dewsbury v Keighley

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth-round replay: St Helens v Wigan (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: National Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Thames Valley v Leopards (8.0).

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance World Indoor Championships (Preston).

RACING: Ascot (BBC, 1.30); Folkestone (1.40); Sedgefield (1.30); Wolverhampton (AW, 2.20).

SNOOKER: International Open (Bournemouth)

TENNIS: LTA men's satellite tournament (Coventry). LTA women's satellite tournament (Sunderland).

THURSDAY

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance World Indoor Championships (Preston)

RACING: Sandown Park (2.0); Taunton (2.15); Lingfield Park (AW, 1.50).

SNOOKER: International Open (Bournemouth)

TENNIS: LTA men's satellite tournament (Coventry). LTA women's satellite tournament (Sunderland).

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Second division: Swansea v Brentford (7.45).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: England Emerging XV v Romania A (at West Hartlepool); Wales Universities v England Universities (at Newport, 7.0).

CLUB MATCHES: Askeans v Sutton and Epsom; Bath v Swansea (7.15); Bedford v Leicester; Bonymaen v La Plata XV (Arg) (7.0); Bridgend v Moseley (7.15); Bristol v Pontypridd; Cardiff v London Welsh (7.0); Coventry v Northampton (7.15); Cross Keys v Pontypool Utd (7.0); Dunvant v La Plata XV (Arg) (7.0); Hendy v Tenby Utd (7.0); Llandovery v Whitland (7.0); Llanelli v Wasps (7.0); Llanharan v Pyle (7.0); London Irish v Reading; Lydney v Clifton (7.0); Mountain Ash v Nottingham (7.0); Narberth v Cardigan (7.0); Newbridge v Penarth (7.15); Pontypool v Gloucester (7.0); Richmond v Cambridge Univ; South Wales Police v Abertillery (7.0); Treorchy v Harrodge HSOB (7.0); Weston-super-Mare v Glamorgan Wndrs.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Castleford v Leeds (Sky, 7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation bantamweight championship: Drew Docherty (Condorrat) v Alfred Kotey (Ghana, holder) (Tryst Centre, Cumbernauld). British lightweight championship (vacant): Paul Burke (Preston) v Michael Ayers (Tooting) (Crawley Leisure Centre).

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance World Indoor Championships (Preston).

RACING: Sandown Park (1.30); Fakenham (2.15); Southwell (AW, 1.50)

SNOOKER: International Open (Bournemouth).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CUP: Fifth round: Everton v Norwich; *Queens Park Rangers v Millwall; *Wolverhampton v Leicester; *Tottenham Hotspur v Southampton; *Watford v Crystal Palace.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Coventry v West Ham; Sheffield Wednesday v Aston Villa.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Barnsley; Bristol City v Oldham; Burnley v Grimsby; Luton v Swindon; Middlesbrough v Charlton; Southend v Sheffield Utd; Sunderland v Portsmouth; Tranmere v Reading; West Bromwich v Notts County. Second division: Birmingham v York; Bradford v Peterborough; Brighton v Crewe; Cambridge Utd v Blackpool; Chester v Shrewsbury; Huddersfield v Cardiff; Hull v Stockport; Leyton Orient v Wrexham; Oxford Utd v Bristol Rovers; Plymouth v Bournemouth; Wycombe v Rotherham. Third division: Barnet v Colchester; Doncaster v Lincoln; Fulham v Darlington; Gillingham v Northampton; Hereford v Bury; *Preston v Carlisle; Rochdale v Exeter; Scarborough v Hartlepool; Scunthorpe v Chesterfield; Walsall v Torquay; Wigan v Mansfield.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Altrincham v Farnborough; Bath v Halifax; Bromsgrove v Runcorn; Dover v Macclesfield; Gateshead v Merthyr; Kettering v Welling; Southport v Northwich; Stafford v Kidderminster; Stalybridge v Yeovil; Telford v Dagenham and Red.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Dumbarton v Clyde; Queen Of South v Brechin. Third division: Albion v Cowdenbeath; Alloa v Caley This; East Stirling v Forfar; Montrose v Queen's Park; Ross County v Arbroath.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Fourth round: Airdrie v Dunfermline; Celtic v Meadowbank; Dundee v Raith; Hearts v Rangers; Hibernian v Motherwell; Huntly v Dundee Utd; Kilmarnock v East Fife; Stenhousemuir v Aberdeen.

RUGBY UNION

RUGBY UNION: Five nations' championship, Wales v England (Cardiff, BBC1); France v Scotland (Paris, BBC1).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: Heavyweight bout: Frank Bruno (GB) v Rodolpho Marin (P Rico); British light-welterweight championship: Ross Hale (Bristol) v Malcolm Melvin (Birmingham) (West of England Exhibition Centre, Shepton Mallet, ITV).

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance World Indoor Championships (Preston).

RACING: Chepstow (BBC, 1.0); Newcastle (C4, 1.25); Nottingham (C4, 1.40); Windsor (1.50); Lingfield Park (AW, 2.20); Wolverhampton (AW, 7.0)

SNOOKER: International Open (Bournemouth).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Fifth round: Liverpool v Wimbledon (3.0); *Manchester United v Leeds United (BBC1, 3.0); *Newcastle United v Manchester City (Sky, 1.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bradford v Hull; Doncaster v Salford; St Helens v Oldham; Wakefield v Wigan (3.30); Warrington v Halifax; Widnes v Sheffield; Workington v Featherstone.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance World Indoor Championships (Preston)

SNOOKER: International Open (Bournemouth).

Jr Min 1:50

Learning to keep your distance

The electronic revolution has brought a boom to a traditional area of education, says **John O'Leary**

Thirty years ago, had the expression existed at all, distance learning would have meant the type of correspondence course that helped John Major escape from a mundane clerical job. There was nothing else.

Today, it is one of education's boom areas. The range of courses is growing all the time, and some experts believe that eventually open learning will become the norm even for school-age children.

The Open University opened the floodgates in the 1970s, but the communications revolution has encouraged the involvement of more organisations in recent years. Other universities have jumped on the bandwagon, and further-education colleges, and even private companies have set up programmes for their own employees.

With the spread of electronic networks, international boundaries have disappeared for the new generation of open learning programmes. Europe has become a growing marketplace for British courses, and the Internet is poised to provide a worldwide conduit.

In the welter of change, it is easy to forget that the correspondence colleges, where the process began, are still thriving. They, too, have moved with the times, and are using new technologies such as video conferencing, as well as the traditional postal communication.

Margaret Philpot, the secretary of the Council for the Accreditation of Correspondence Colleges, says: "Our name may sound outdated, but we are coming into our own now with a much more flexible approach to learning. People are desperate to improve their career prospects and they are turning to us in increasing numbers."

The 44 colleges under the council's umbrella cover subjects as diverse as genealogy, accountancy, law and psychotherapy. Most of the courses have a vocational slant, whether at degree level or for beginners.

With more than 200,000 people enrolled this year, the Open University remains the big player in the field. But it, too, is spreading its wings. Having expanded its activities in Europe, the OU has formed the Knowledge Media Institute to bring together its work on multimedia provision, the information superhighway and other futuristic developments.

Academics are developing "virtual" classrooms and laboratories for a new range of courses which they hope will make the university the European leader in its area within three years. Projects are already under way on satellite tuition, multimedia courseware for disabled students, assignments submitted by e-mail and tutorials over the Internet.

The OU is hoping for backing from the European Commission and the Millennium Commission, as well as industrial sponsors to fund its leap into the future. Brussels already supports collaboration in engineering with East European partners, and a European Open University Network is progressing apace.

But the OU will not have things all its own way in its continental venture. The 23 universities belonging to the Open Learning Foundation are already active in Europe, and will show their latest developments at a seminar in London next month.

Based at North London University, the foundation has enjoyed the services of more than 100 academic staff seconded from member institutions over the past year. Some 1,700 hours of new study materials were produced and several "Euro-study centres" established as a result.

The foundation's materials are now available to 350,000 students, and the organisation has already outgrown its premises. John Bull, the Vice-Chancellor of Plymouth University and the OLF's chairman, attributes the success of the foundation to changing approaches to teaching and learning within universities.

Next month's seminar, which will make use of video conferencing, cable and satellite facilities, is intended to demonstrate the benefits of distance learning in reducing costs and increasing efficiency, as well as attracting new students. But it is not just the foundation's members who are aware of the educational potential of the new communication technologies. The Southampton Institute of Higher Education recently launched its first MBA taught over the Internet, and others are thinking of following suit.

Leicester University is one of many planning to expand distance learning activities. An MA in European management and employment law, for example, is tailored to new job opportunities in the single market.

But higher education has no monopoly in distance learning developments. The National Extension College, which was a forerunner of the Open University, is one of a number of organisations offering courses at lower levels. There are 24 GCSE programmes and 21 at A level, plus a range of professional subjects and courses preparing students for the OU.

Labour is committed to an expansion of such opportunities through its plans for a University for Industry. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, who has championed the scheme, wants to harness the new technologies both to raise levels of basic education and to improve the country's skills base.

Mr Brown's plan is to pool the expertise of educationists, broadcasters, industrialists and technicians to produce high-quality courses for use in the workplace. By blurring the distinction between education and work, he hopes to make a reality of lifetime learning and so increase British competitiveness.

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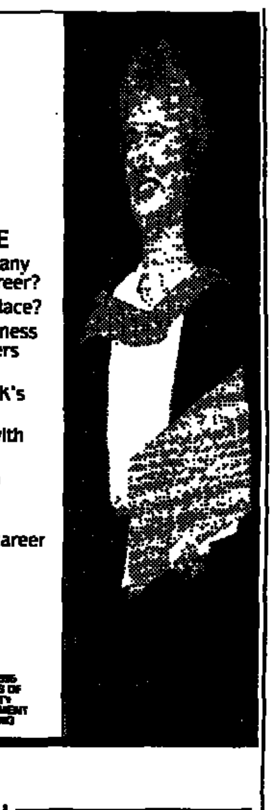

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EDUCATION

What makes a good school?

Research shows that purposeful teaching, high expectations and intellectual challenge are necessary to get the best out of pupils. **Peter Mortimore** reports

Primary schooling is the "Cinderella" of the education system: funding levels are less generous

What makes an effective school? If the answer is one that gets the best out of its pupils, rather than simply holding down a place at the top of the league tables, how can that be measured and improvements made?

This quest has been at the heart of my work for the last 20 years. All the evidence shows that the individual school can make a significant difference to pupils' life chances.

My definition of an effective school is one in which students progress further than might be expected from a consideration of its intake. Inner-city schools, for example, despite receiving many socially disadvantaged pupils, can still be successful in promoting progress.

The strengths of the effective schools research lie in the use of classroom observation data to test out the reports of pupils and teachers, the adoption of appropriate statistical techniques, and a recognition that the effectiveness of a school can only be considered in relation to its typical intake.

A school's effectiveness can only be considered in relation to its intake

Researchers have identified a number of the factors commonly associated with effective schools. There are few surprises among a collection which includes professional leadership, shared vision, high expectations and a concentration on teaching and learning. Recognition of pupils' rights and responsibilities and parental involvement is also important.

The reasons why some schools are more effective than others are complex and typically involve a mixture of their own policies and factors such as the academic balance of the intake. It is difficult to sustain progress if the proportion of pupils able to match national norms is very small and the number with learning problems is comparatively large.

The choices facing the governors and school staff are embodied in the school ethos. At its best, a positive ethos incorporates a self-reinforcing system in which high expectations and enthusiasm lead to positive and constructive attitudes to learning among both staff and pupils. It is hard to build up but, once achieved, helps schools to sustain the momentum of their effectiveness.

The search for sound theory is important if we are to be able to provide reliable advice to heads and governors. The practical work includes collaborating with schools, local authorities and other universities in a range of experiments drawing on different approaches to improvement and undertaking a further set of research studies.

The Institute of Education has a centre devoted to the study of school effectiveness and improvement, where the topics under investigation include: subject differences and yearly variation in schools' GCSE results; primary school development planning (where we have found that only some plans actually influence the classroom); and the innovative use of staff in City Technology Colleges. We are also working with Strathclyde University and the Scottish Office Education Department in a new project linking a detailed study of school effectiveness with a collaborative programme of improvement in a large sample of schools in Scotland.

Our findings have already caused social scientists to moderate their views about the various social influences affecting children and young people, and to recognise the value of schooling in promoting pupils' progress. Many heads and governors already appreciate the potential of schooling; others — especially, perhaps, those who work in schools in disadvantaged areas and who have grown too used to being blamed — do not.

We now need to find better ways to disseminate this news. The final project of the National Commission on Education should help to reveal how some schools succeed against the odds. A case study of a successful school in south London should illustrate the point.

One particularly interesting feature of the findings of the research on school effectiveness is the enduring effect of primary education, often regarded as the Cinderella of the education system.

The levels of funding and the average size of classes are far less generous than their secondary counterparts. Paradoxically, the review of class size that we have carried out suggests that it is with the youngest primary pupils that the best return from an investment in smaller classes can be obtained.

Many primary schools, of course, are extremely ambitious for and have high expectations of their pupils. Regular intellectual challenge is a characteristic only of the most effective schools. We need to attend much more carefully to the key skills of reading and mathematics, though not to the detriment of other curriculum subjects.

The Reading Recovery scheme, in which the Institute has been closely involved, can play an important role. This highly structured, individualised programme enables many children experiencing reading problems at the age of six to catch up with their peers through a brief, but intensive, period of individual help.

Reading Recovery is expensive to run (typically pupils have a half hour of individual attention each day for 16 weeks) but most recover sufficiently to rejoin their class, thus saving the cost of years of remedial work. Regretfully, the Department for Education is reducing its support, and some local authorities are dropping out of the scheme. This programme is one of the best means of raising national standards of achievement and I hope our policy-makers will find ways to continue this work.

A new focus on the teaching of primary mathematics is equally urgent. We know that in many primary schools, teachers lack advanced qualifications in mathematics and are, in certain cases, insecure in their grasp of its essential principles. If we are serious about raising standards in mathematics, science and technology this will clearly not do.

In the face of growing competition from emerging economies, supported by literate, numerate and technologically proficient workforces, school improvement has never been more necessary. Universities have the knowledge, skills and energy to contribute much to this work. It is in all our interests that they are encouraged to do so.

● *The author is Director of the University of London Institute of Education. The full text of his inaugural lecture,* Effective Schools: Current Impact and Future Potential, *is published by the Institute (20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL), at £2.50.*

KEY POINTS FOR EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS

- **Strong leadership.**
- **Shared vision and goals.**
- **Orderly atmosphere and attractive environment.**
- **Concentration on teaching and learning.**
- **Purposeful teaching.**
- **High expectations.**
- **Clear discipline**
- **Monitoring progress.**
- **Pupil rights and responsibilities.**
- **Home/school partnership.**
- **Staff development.**

Let's learn to live together

VIEWPOINT

SUSAN ELKIN

HOW MANY people know that 1995 is UN International Year of Tolerance? Very few I suspect. Yet the need to develop tolerance in young people who will live out their lives in the melting pot of the 21st century is paramount.

The trouble is that we tend to put ourselves in impervious boxes and mix only with a narrow range of people — look at schools. Young people spend the formative years of their secondary education in a limited and literally exclusive — in its widest sense — environment. The result, in terms of relating to people who come from different backgrounds, is dire.

Let me cite an example. My Local Education Authority in Kent practises selection at 11, or in some areas at 13, so that the "able" and the "average" are to an extent segregated. Many of the schools, whether grammar or secondary modern, are single sex. Because this is a fairly leafy shire, large tracts of the county have few residents of Afro-Caribbean or Asian origin. It is therefore common for children to be educated in an environment where they don't mix with the opposite sex, those of different academic ability or people of another race or colour. The resultant white working class ghettos are frighteningly intolerant places.

The intolerance stems, as far as I can see after teaching for many years in single-sex high schools in socio-economically deprived areas, comes from two main sources.

Some arises from fear of the unknown. If you have no contact with "boffs" in the grammar school it is likely that your feelings will become vocal: "I can't stand those stuck-up snobs." Doubtless similar sentiments are expressed in reverse at grammar schools. There is a mutual lack of understanding and respect. Each group finds the other threatening.

The second problem is the media. Many parents have also had a similarly limited education, quite often at the same local school as their children. In adult life their prejudices are nurtured by a small number of tabloid newspapers. These views are then passed to the children, and you hear them in school saying things like: "My dad can't stand wogs and neither can I."

Of course, I am generalising, but racism, sexism, inverted academic snobbery and homophobia are alarmingly prevalent.

If people are to live harmoniously together then it is vital that teachers and youth workers find creative ways of widening young people's social experience. As the Amerindian Chieftain prayer says: "Let me not judge another man until I have walked two miles in his moccasins."

Role-modelling is the most powerful tool in a teacher's kit. All teachers should do their utmost to evince and to practise tolerance at all times. It is a frightening responsibility but one which cannot be shirked.

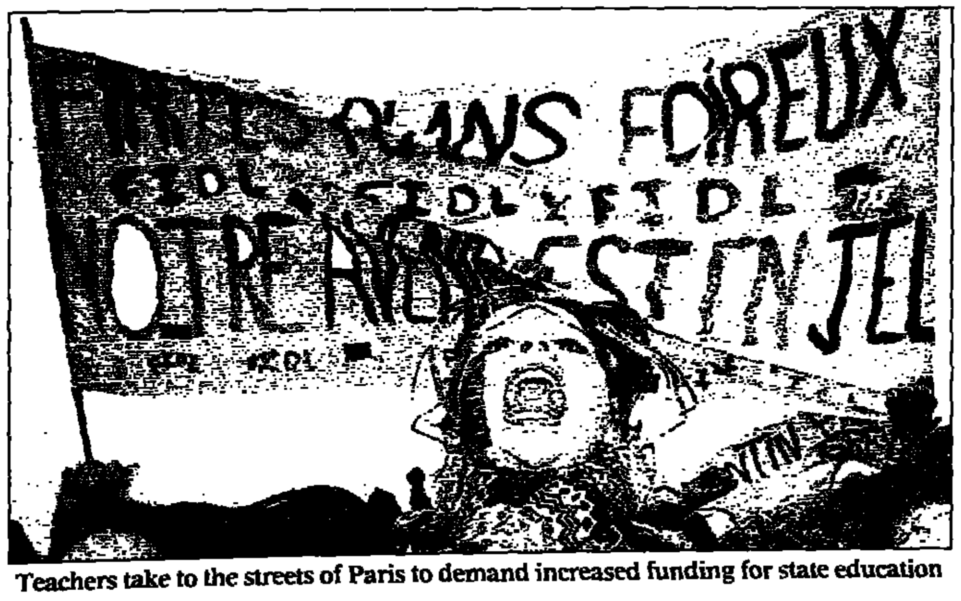
Consider exchange visits. I know of an exclusive girls' boarding school which recently invited students from a Catholic comprehensive to visit and attend some of their lessons. Later, the hospitality was returned. After initial nervousness all participants became enthusiastic.

Only through meeting, sharing and chatting to people from different backgrounds is there any hope that they might relate to each other as individual human beings. Blinkered intolerance can also be confronted and broken down through a carefully structured Personal and Social Education curriculum based on active learning processes.

With gang warfare and racial tensions increasing in inner-cities and elsewhere it is vital that we do everything we can to teach the value of tolerance. The UN International Year of Tolerance would be a good time to start.

Chalk flies as French ignore budget lessons

John Gilmore finds discontent over funding is not confined to Britain


NOTRE AVENIR EST EN JEU
Teachers take to the streets of Paris to demand increased funding for state education

Those who believe that the current concern about school budgets will soon blow over need only look across the Channel to see what could happen. An estimated 90,000 teachers and students marched through the streets of Paris last Tuesday, demanding that increased funding be channelled into state education. The Paris demonstration coincided with protests in several other major French cities.

Almost a third of teachers in French schools and colleges also failed to turn up for work.

It is a familiar story: four years ago, 200,000 students and sympathisers from all over France demonstrated in Paris over a lack of school investment and overcrowded classes. The only difference this time is that the protests mainly involve teachers, whereas last time it was predominantly student based.

In 1991, President Mitterrand and the then education minister, Lionel Jospin, ensured a temporary cooling off period by proposing an investment of FFr20 billion (£2.4 billion) to improve conditions. But they failed to learn the lessons and the underlying problems persisted.

Nathalie Laurent, a school teacher in Paris for eight years, says: "The investment in recent years has been largely superficial, such as repairing school buildings. The real issue of overcrowding in classes and poor salaries for teachers has remained relatively untouched."

The number of teachers in France has remained virtually unchanged since 1992, at just under one million. The French Ministry of Education has calculated that it will require an additional 300,000 teachers by the year 2000 just to replace those leaving through retirement, but low salaries are hampering efforts to attract people to the profession.

Teachers' pay has risen by only 4 per cent since 1990 — way below inflation levels — and last year there was no increase at all. This has led to a disenchanted profession, with the inevitable knock-on effects among students.

The issue of overcrowding and poor salaries has remained untouched

Nathalie Laurent says: "I receive a salary of FFr85,000 [£10,000] a year and my job satisfaction is virtually nil. Unless the situation improves, I'll have to consider alternative employment. Some of my friends see teaching as a hobby, because in France it is not considered a profession."

Salaries for French state school teachers start at FFr60,000 (£7,200) a year, less than half the European average. A normal day stretches from 8.30am to 4.30pm, even at nursery schools for three-year-olds.

Christine Celeyran, 18, says: "Six years ago, I began to do homework for 1½ hours each day. During the school term, I was either too tired or too busy for simple pleasures such as playing sports or games. Constant disruptions and having to study in classes of more than 30 pupils made it difficult to concentrate."

Parents, rather than openly protesting about the poor structure of state schools or overcrowding, have been sending their children to private French schools in increasing numbers. Over the past 25 years, the French Government has encouraged the development of the private sector with legislation, which has managed to cut costs considerably. A quarter of all French pupils now receive private education.

The aim has been to ease the pressure in the state sector. Even low-income families have shown their dissatisfaction with the state school system, with one in six now prepared to pay between FFr20,000 and FFr30,000 (£2,400 and £3,600) a year for private tuition.

Although classes are generally smaller in private schools, with 20 pupils compared to more than 40 in the state sector, it is questionable whether standards are any higher. Many staff are paid only during the school term, and their wages are cut when lessons are cancelled.

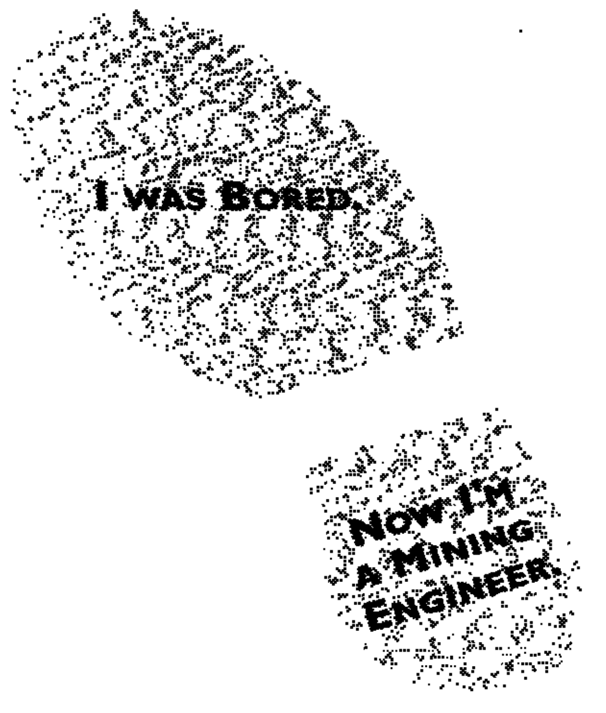
Some private schools are prepared to employ teachers without the necessary qualifications, and annual contracts can be terminated at short notice. Teachers' salaries in the private sector are on average 25 per cent below those of public school teachers, and most private teachers have to work extra hours at other schools to get a reasonable salary.

The French Government's expenditure in schools has increased by FFr180 billion (£21 billion), from FFr101 billion in 1980. However, 40 per cent of the overall costs are still spent on administration. The investment has clearly not been directed to address the current 25,000 shortfall in teachers.

A policy of keeping teachers' salary increases below inflation levels has discouraged the recruitment of new teachers and caused disenchantment within the profession. If left unchanged, this policy will only increase tensions.

Lawrence Veron, a university lecturer in Paris, says: "The problem is engrained within French society and until teachers are seen as professionals and not vocational workers, nothing will ever change."

EDUCATION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by NICK DAWS

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With such demand, there's always room for new writers. But, as Mr. E. H. Metcalfe, principal of Britain's leading writing school The Writers Bureau, explains; 'If you want to enjoy the rewards of seeing your work in print, one thing you must have is proper training.'

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EDUCATION

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A non-stipendiary professorial fellowship at St Catherine's College is attached to the professorship.

Applications (ten copies, or one only from overseas candidates), naming three referees should be received not later than 27 March by the Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, England, from whom further particulars may be obtained. (Confidential fax: 01865 280300.)

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POSTS

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As the present Secretary General, Dr A Christodoulou, retires on 31 May 1996 his successor will be required to assume duties by or shortly before 1 June 1996.

Salary and benefits (including pension) will be subject to negotiation.

Further particulars are available from Dorothy Garland, Secretary to the Advisory Committee, ACU, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF (tel. 0171 387 8572, fax 0171 383 0368, e-mail appts.acu@ucl.ac.uk) with whom applications (including the names of three referees) should be lodged by 31 March 1995.

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Full job description, further details and application procedure available by writing to the Headmaster's Secretary and marking the envelope "Bursar".

Closing date for applications Friday 10 March 1995

EDUCATION

THE TIMES

POSTGRADUATE COURSES SUPPLEMENT
MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 1995

The Times will publish the next postgraduate courses supplement on Monday 20th February 1995. This will be a 16 page tabloid supplement containing topical editorial and exclusive listings for 'taught' postgraduate course vacancies.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SUPPLEMENT
MONDAY 27TH MARCH 1995

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Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Appointments (43670), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF (tel. 0171 387 8572 ext. 206; fax 0171 383 0368; e-mail: appts.acu@ucl.ac.uk); or from the Appointments Unit, Registry, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (fax: (852) 2559 2058; E-mail: APPTUNIT@HKUVM1.HKU.HK). Particulars are also available on the University's listserv accessed by e-mail as "listserv@hkuvm1.hku.hk" (specify "get apptment filelist" for list of vacant posts).

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Please send CV to: Ms Debbie Collins, I.F Consulting, James House, 1 Babmaes Street, St. James's SW1Y 6HD or fax 0171 925 2636

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BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,772.80	Abbey Nat	440	+ 9	4.4	14.8
1,799.80	Allied Irish	270	+ 6	5.7	10.4
2,937.30	Aus New Z	217	+ 7	5.5	7.6
20,457.10	Bank America	2987½	+ 193½	..	
2,447.40	Bank Scotland	209	+ 2	3.2	11.8
11,606.20	Barclays	612	+ 21	3.4	15.0
1,483.50	Bk of Ireland	312	+ 4	4.6	9.0
10,807.90	Citicorp	2725	+ 137½	..	
214.20	Close Bros	225	+ 2	4.2	10.2
4,601.60	Commerzbk	£140¼	+ 693¼	6.0	
34,356.00	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1100	− 31½	0.5	
14,257.50	Deutsche Bk	£300½	+ 578½	2.3	...
154.20	Espirito Santo	721½	− 46½	5.3	3.6
114.80	First Nat Fin	68		2.8	43.4
39,987.60	Fuji Bank Y	1379½	+ 10½	0.4	
420.10	Hambros	238	+ 1	7.9	14.6
5,751.00	HSBC	675	+ 23	4.5	9.8
11,751.80	HSBC HK	570	+ 30½	4.6	9.7
20.80	Joseph (L)	393		5.8	11.4
836.40	Kleinwort Ben	627	+ 9	3.8	11.1
7,263.20	Lloyds	560	+ 10	6.0	9.1
6,679.70	Nat Aust Bk	499	− 4	7.1	·
8,717.30	Nat West	508	+ 12	4.8	9.9
107.50	Ottoman Bank	2750		6.8	·
28.60	Rea Bros	64		1.9	17.9
3,356.20	Royal Bk Scott	419	+ 21	4.1	12.0
1,548.00	Schroders	1548	+ 63	1.5	14.2
401.80	Schroders N/V	1385	+ 50	1.7	12.7
165.10	Singer & Fried	85		4.6	10.9
2,605.50	Stand Chart	270	+ 6	3.0	9.3
3,842.80	TSB	251	− 1	4.6	·
1,597.20	Warburg SG	726	− 35	3.8	13.3
5,526.00	Wells Fargo	9975	+ 450	3.0	·
4,062.80	Westpac	223	− 4	2.6	·
19.40	Woolwich	228	..	5.9	15.0

BREWERIES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
42.20	Ascot Hldgs	153	− 1		
4,574.50	Bass	524	− 14	5.0	13.0
297.20	Boddington	245	− 2	4.2	19.2
35.60	Burtonwood Brwy	171	− 3	3.7	14.3
34.80	Eldridge P 'A'	168	− 2	3.1	20.4
1,770.40	Fosters Brewing	56	+ 1	5.2	13.7
69.00	Fuller Sm 'A'	338	− 22	2.9	14.0
857.30	Greenalls Grp	410	− 22	4.0	13.5
201.40	Greene King	475	− 45	3.5	12.9
52.00	Hardy Hansons	260	+ 2	4.5	12.7
3.48	Heavitree	150		3.8	·
105.80	Hall J	3388	+ 25	1.8	18.6
152.30	Mansfield	237	− 10	2.5	14.5
250.20	Marston Thmp	278	− 24	2.7	13.5
97.20	Morland	448	− 12	3.0	13.5
8.26	Paramount	7		3.6	16.5
46.60	Regent Inns	316	− 11	2.7	24.2
4,041.90	SA Breweries	1456¼	+ 25	2.0	22.5
2,651.30	Scot & Newc	496½	− 11½	4.4	14.2
298.00	Vaux Group	214	− 11	5.8	12.1
168.10	Wetherspoon JD	463	− 4	1.8	25.5
2,766.70	Whitbread	525	− 37	4.5	14.4
325.20	Wolvrhmptn D	489	− 12	3.6	12.9
75.50	Yates Bros	195	− 3	2.5	15.2
13.30	Young 'A'	460	+ 2	4.1	19.5

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
26.50	ABI Leis	98	− 1	5.2	11.3
59.60	Acal	309	..	2.8	16.7
25.60	Adam & Harvey	565	...	3.3	7.5
8.46	Alexanders	21	+ 1	6.2	·
65.10	Appleyard	98	− 9	7.4	17.3
11.80	Ass Br Eng	4½		1.4	32.1
196.20	BSS Group	520		4.4	18.3
8.00	Bearing Power	23		5.4	11.8
15.40	Bletchley Mtr	253		5.2	10.4
1.36	Bogod 'A'	28	...	3.1	11.8
156.40	Brammer	346	− 1	4.7	19.2
4.12	Bridgend Gp	15	·	1.7	78.0
22.60	Brit Fittings	95		3.0	·
13.60	Brown & Tawse	42	− 1	·	·
41.30	Burndene	29	+ 2	6.2	·
8.51	Callyns	258	− 2	5.6	42.4
18.40	Cassel Fnc	19½	− 1	7.1	10.8
10.00	Central Mtr	73	− 3	4.9	·
16.70	Cope (DC)	39	− 1	3.7	12.0
363.90	Cowie	226	+ 1	5.0	11.2
33.40	Dep Motor	138		5.9	15.9
25.90	Denmans Elt	588		1.4	14.5
246.00	Diploma	430	+ 2	3.8	15.4
1,030.50	Electrocomp	499	+ 11	2.6	20.1
41.10	Electron House	161	− 2	2.8	13.5
210.20	Ellis & Everard	252	− 1	3.9	16.7
98.00	Eurodollar	200	− 1	5.3	15.6
55.20	European Mtr	103	− 1	5.5	11.2
120.30	Evans Halshaw	376	− 5	4.7	11.8
743.00	Farnell Elect	550	+ 3	1.8	22.6
6.76	Fife Indmar	55		6.2	8.1
22.30	Gardiner	20½	+ 1½	5.0	·
5.06	Glencheuton	20	− 1½		22.1
8.46	Gowrings	71		3.5	21.6
24.70	Hallam Hldgs	67	− 1		52.1
18.90	Harris (Philip)	169	− 1	5.1	14.8
123.50	Henlys	259	− 2	3.6	13.9
3.03	Holders Tech	97		7.7	10.5
41.10	ISA Intl	103	− 3	2.1	12.9
1,591.50	Inchcape	302	− 15	6.2	10.0
6.26	Jacks (Wm)	58			13.4
258.80	Kwik-Fit	150	− 1	3.3	17.2
270.70	Lex Service	284	− 8½	5.9	10.9
24.10	Lookers	175	− 4	5.5	·
22.90	Malaya Grp	14	− ½	2.2	
39.70	Middleton	7	+ ½	...	
41.80	Norbain	402	− 1	0.7	17.9
15.50	Northumbn	91		1.8	38.6
13.40	PCT	152		6.1	14.7
87.10	Pendragon	231	− 3	4.1	15.2
32.90	Perry Gp	130	− 3	6.7	7.1
29.20	Quicks Group	137	+ 1	5.2	13.4
15.00	REA	165		4.5	34.1
4.87	Reece	2¾	..		
7.01	Ross Gp	5		5.0	·
32.40	SEP Ind	40		3.3	·
15.30	TLS Range	42		3.0	16.9
120.50	Time Products	227		4.8	15.3
77.80	Vardy (Reg)	168		3.9	12.4
34.50	Wholesale Ftgs	243		6.1	21.4
26.30	Wills Gp	15	− ½	4.2	8.4
57.50	Witchaw	69½		1.2	23.4
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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Armour Trust, Genbel Investments, High-Point, Mid Wynd International Investment Trust, Second Alliance Trust. **Finals:** Govett Asian Smaller, OLIM Convertible Trust, Regal Hotel Group. **Economic statistics:** Producer price index numbers (January), capital issues and redemptions (December).

TOMORROW

Interims: Finsbury Underwriting Trust, Fleming Overseas Investment Trust, Hanson, Howard Holdings, NatWest Smaller Companies, Save & Prosper Linked Inv Trust. **Finals:** Allied Irish Banks, British Petroleum, Flying Flowers, Kleinwort Overseas Inv Trust, Kvaerner, Eli Lilly, Reuters Holdings, St Modwen Properties, TR Pacific Inv Trust. **Economic statistics:** CBI survey of distributive trades (January), acquisitions and mergers (Q4), construction — new orders (December).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Armitage Brothers, Benson Group, Ecu Trust, Enterprise Computer, Foreign & Colonial Income. **Finals:** Brightstone Properties, Mersey Docks & Harbour Company, Vardon. **Economic statistics:** Retail sales (January), retail prices index (January), labour market statistics: unemployment and unfilled vacancies (January — provisional); average earnings indices (December — provisional); employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes; and long-term unemployment (quarterly analysis of unemployment by age and duration) (January).

THURSDAY

Interims: Alumasc Group, Bellwinch, Pantheon International Participations, Quayle Munro. **Finals:** Anglo & Overseas Trust, Finsbury Smaller Companies, General Consolidated Investment Trust, Kleinwort Benson Group, River & Mercantile Trust, Ward Holdings, Wickes. **Economic statistics:** Monetary meeting minutes (December 28), motor vehicle production (January), machine tools (December), PSBR (January).

FRIDAY

Interims: Birse Group. **Finals:** Baring Tribune Investment, Gartmore Emerging Pacific, Throgmorton Trust. **Economic statistics:** Financial statistics (February).

COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

BP rises above the oil price storm

SOME of Britain's corporate giants will provide further evidence of the strength of economic recovery this week as a host of FT-SE companies report figures.

BRITISH PETROLEUM: The oil giant starts the ball rolling, with tomorrow's full-year figures expected to please the City.

The benefits of cost reductions and lower interest charges will offset the effects of a lower oil price and mild weather. A volatile oil price dipped below $14 a barrel at one point last year, although a recovery saw the North Sea price average about $16 during 1994, more than $1 lower than the previous year. However, Fergus MacLeod, of NatWest Securities, expects the oil price to rise by about $2 a barrel this year, reaching $19 a barrel.

BP has seen a year of recovery in its downstream and upstream oil and gas interests, but the star performer has been chemicals.

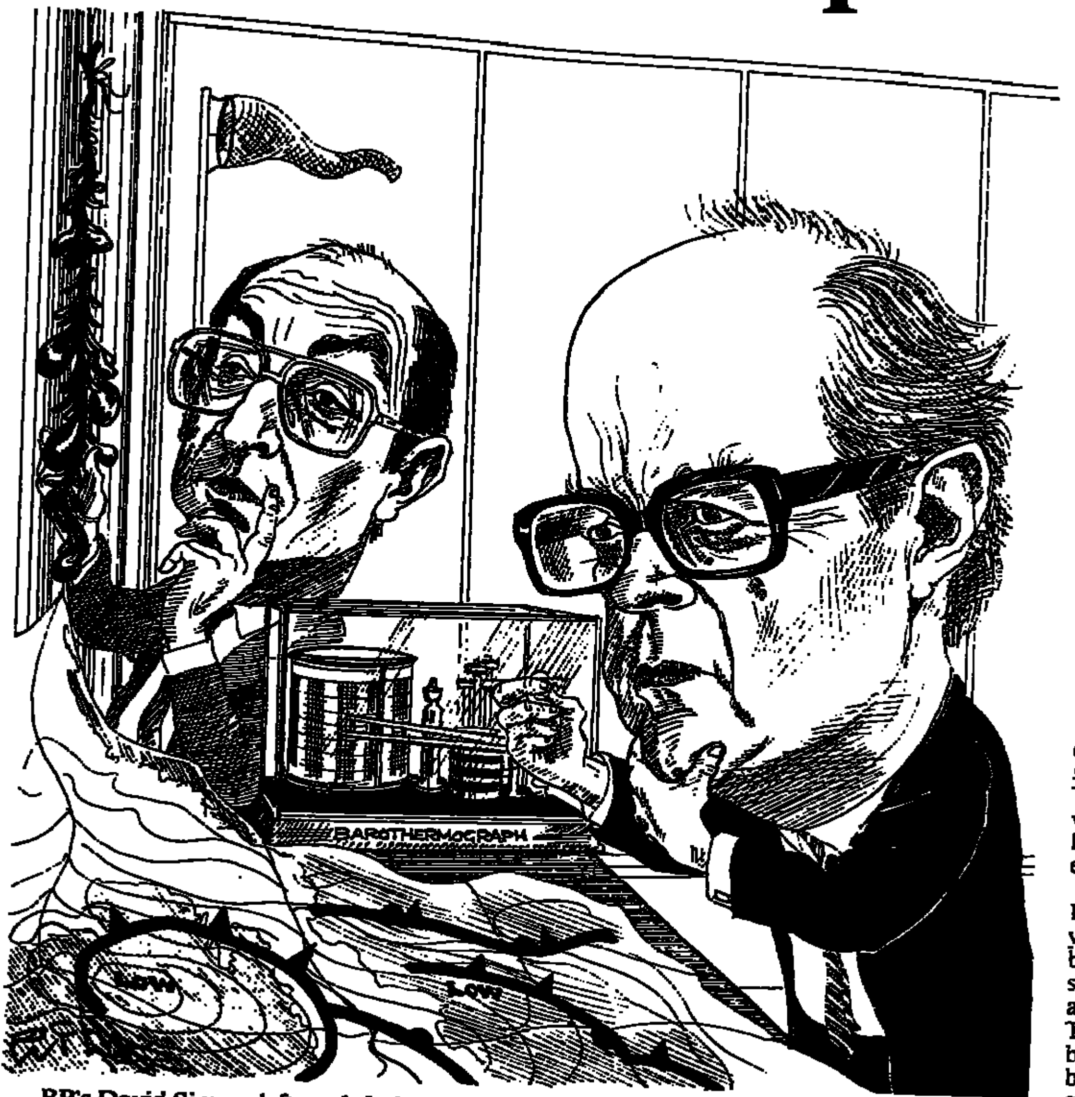
Refining profit margins have come under pressure from mild weather in the fourth quarter, which depressed demand for heating oil and affected gas sales, but the chemicals upturn and continuing cost savings should have boosted net income.

David Simon, the chief executive, who is credited with turning round the company, will no doubt be hoping for prolonged spells of colder weather and further strength in the oil price as economic recovery gathers pace.

Mr MacLeod expects fourth-quarter net income on a replacement cost basis to advance to £409 million (£54 million), giving net income of £1.51 billion (£896 million) for the year. A dividend of 10p (8.4p) is predicted. Profit forecasts range from £1.43 billion to £1.52 billion.

BP has also paid down debt during the year, so a lower interest charge of £545 million (£670 million) is forecast, with gearing likely to have come down to about 60 per cent (83 per cent).

Mr MacLeod expects a sharp improvement in petrochemical operations, after losses in the previous year, with conditions expected to pick up further in the current year. The downstream businesses may continue to be hit by tight refining margins worldwide but BP should see an improved result as it is not too exposed to the Far East, where the worst pressure has been concentrated. BP has also seen the benefits of a cost-cutting exercise, including a £20 million provision for job cuts in Alaska, that should take some pressure off margins.



BP's David Simon, left, and chairman Lord Ashburton are expected to please the City

REUTERS HOLDINGS: The news and financial information agency should also please investors tomorrow with a strong advance in full-year profits. Reuters has already reported 22.8 per cent growth in nine-month revenues. Improved market conditions and contributions from acquisitions are expected to help to lift final pre-tax profits to £505 million (£440 million), according to UBS, with a dividend of 8p (6.4p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £504 million to £534 million.

Analysts await news on current trading, but expect no slowdown in the rate of growth from the financial division, while a boom is expected in the media business. Further information is also awaited on the group's recently announced plans to become a major player in international television news.

HANSON: The bricks and aggregates to plastics and tobacco conglomerate from over here will be able to tell investors exactly how well it is doing over there when it unveils first-quarter results tomorrow. Mark Cusack, of BZW, has pencilled in first-quarter pre-tax profits of £240 million, against clean profits of £105 million last time. An improved dividend of 3p (2.85p) is predicted. Market forecasts range from £232 million to £300 million. Analysts expect a good increase in the first quarter, with the American operations, Quantum and Peabody, coming through strongly. Hanson has benefited in the quarter from an increase in aggregate volumes and prices, which have been assisted by the mild winter. Analysts see 1995 as a good year for Hanson, with many expecting a return to the acquisition trail.

WICKES: The do-it-yourself-to-timber chain, unveils its full-year results on Thursday. Aggressive pricing and a record expansion programme have helped it to come out ahead of weakening building demand. Like-for-like sales growth is expected to have been sustained at about 10 per cent. Credit Lyonnais Laing expects final pre-tax profits of £29 million (£17.5 million), with a dividend of 1.75p (1p). Market forecasts range from £27.5 million to £29 million.

The future, however, is less certain, given Homebase's added strength after its takeover of the Texas DIY chain, while the recent wave of interest rate rises will have done little to boost consumer and homebuyer confidence.

KLEINWORT BENSON: Full-year figures from the merchant bank on Thursday will be overshadowed by anything it says about recent merger speculation. Takeover whispers were sparked by the ill-fated merger talks between SG Warburg and Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, with Kleinwort mentioned as a likely takeover target. Kleinwort would give strong corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions business, as well as asset management and securities business, to a foreign bank aiming to expand in the City.

UBS expects final pre-tax profits to slip to £85 million (£111.7 million), although an improved dividend of 21p (18.5p) is predicted. Market forecasts range from £80 million to £105 million. The expected fall in profits will reflect turbulent bond and equity markets, although Kleinwort is likely to have withstood the conditions better than many of its rivals.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Price worries hold sway

Concern about the build-up of inflationary pressures in Britain, in spite of the monetary tightening since the autumn, looks set to preoccupy the London market this week. The City has generally applauded the readiness of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to act swiftly to counter inflation, but forecasters see output prices picking up, as manufacturers try to pass on rising costs.

Market forecasts for today's announcement of January producer prices centre on seasonally adjusted input prices accelerating to annual growth of 9.6 per cent in January, from 8.5 per cent in December. The annual rise in output prices is expected to jump to 3 per cent from 2.6 per cent.

Core inflation in output prices, which excludes food, alcoholic drinks, tobacco and petrol, is expected to accelerate from an annual rate of 3 per cent last month from 2.8 per cent in December.

The retail prices index, out on Wednesday, is also forecast to show a sharp pick-up in the year-on-year rate to 3.3 per cent from December's 2.9 per cent, as higher excise duties and mortgage rate increases feed through. The underlying rate, which excludes mortgage interest payments, is also expected to speed up to an annual 2.8 per cent from 2.5 per cent, but it remains well within the Government's target range.

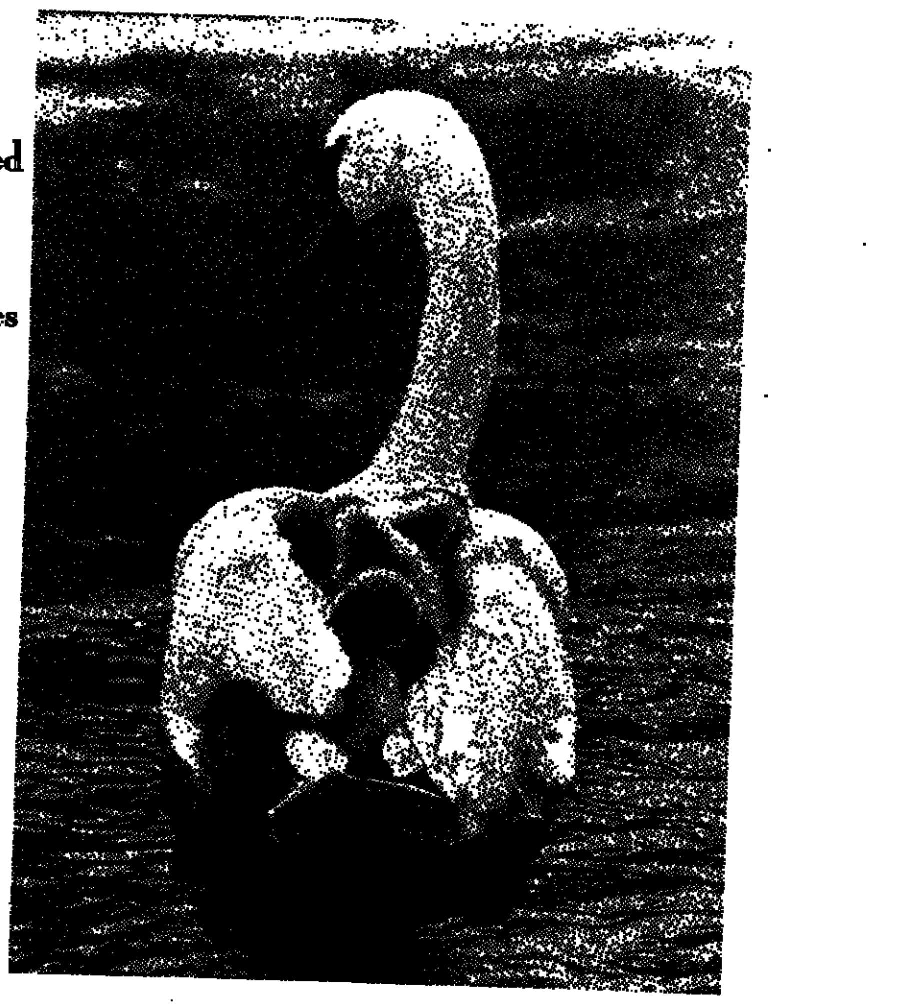
Wall Street reacted reasonably to better than expected US producer price data on Friday, but the antennae are still out for signs of inflation, which has been moderate for more than four years. The US consumer price index, published on Wednesday, is forecast to show an annual rise of 2.9 per cent in January, its highest for a year.

Other UK economic data for January include the CBI distributive trades survey, due tomorrow and the retail sales and labour market data, out on Wednesday. Consumer demand is expected to remain subdued, while earnings hold steady and unemployment falls further.

COLIN NARBROUGH

TIPS FROM THE SUNDAY PAPERS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** Reuters, **Buy** Asda, **Avoid** Pentos. *The Observer*: **Buy** Thorn EMI, **Buy** Lloyds Bank. *The Independent on Sunday*: **Avoid** Reuters, **Buy** Wickes. *The Mail on Sunday*: **Buy** William Baird, **Buy** P&P. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** Bowater, **Buy** Channel Holdings.



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High-earning Whitehall bosses 'live longer'

By Victoria McKee

HIGH salaries have come under attack recently, but the latest evidence is that they make for healthier, if not necessarily more productive, bosses. Researchers engaged in a study of health and mortality rates among more than 10,000 civil servants found the higher the pay, the lower the risk of death and disease across all ages. These findings coincide with the announcement of 25 per cent pay rises for senior civil servants, and the 75 per cent increase in salary, to £475,000, for Cedric Brown, of British Gas.

High salaries may be a reward for heavy responsibilities, but they bring with them official cars, personal assistants and other support systems, plus private health care and pensions. Cary Cooper, an occupational stress expert at Umist (University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology), says "golden parachutes" exist for those with farther to fall. He claims that middle, not top, managers were the unlucky ones in the 1970s.

Michael Marmot, professor of epidemiology and public health, and director of the international centre for health and society at University College, London, who has been involved with the civil service studies for 15 years, says top jobs also bring with them a greater degree of "variety and control". If Sir Iain Vallance, head of British Telecom, who recently provoked outcry by demanding more sympathy for the lot of those at the top, was made to sit at the switchboard five days a week, Professor Marmot predicts it would not be good for his health. Those in repetitive work were found to have higher levels of heart disease than those at the top.

Professor Cooper, author of *The Stress Survivors*, thinks that those at the top are self-selected — they are there because they are better copers. He says: "From a study we did of chief executives throughout Europe in 1990, I think we will find that they are beginning to suffer more from stress as the old guard is replaced by a new breed of younger executives."

From 80 occupational health studies Professor Cooper has also concluded that women at the top are better at handling stress than men. This might be because they have never been able to depend on domestic support systems the way men have.

Jonathan Powell, 46, and formerly Controller of BBC1, is now head of drama for Carlton Television. He left his BBC job in 1992. Now he says he feels calmer, with more time to enjoy his infant daughter. He says: "Running BBC1 was a stressful top job by anyone's standards, and you don't get golden parachutes, handshakes, handcuffs or anything else. I feel much calmer now, and I suppose I also feel more in control because I am now more responsible for what I do, rather than being 100 per cent reliant on other people."

Alan Yentob, also 46, is now controller of BBC1. He says: "Stress is only a consequence of pressure. You have to enjoy the challenge in a job like this, otherwise you're in the wrong job.

"Some people have no choice, and that is unfortunate. I have always felt that what I do is a vocation, but finding time with a young family is sometimes difficult."

Jennifer Laing, chairman and chief executive of her own advertising agency, Laing Henry, and formerly a co-chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi, says she has never been aware of suffering stress at work. She says: "I think I have the knack of transferring my stress to everyone else around me — and at the top you can transfer it down! Stress is about frustration, and I can always take action."

Austria may leave EBRD over nuclear power plan

By Colin Narbrough, World Trade Correspondent

NON-NUCLEAR Austria threatens to become the first country to quit the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), unless it succeeds in blocking a controversial DM1.45 billion nuclear power plant in Slovakia.

In an unanimous vote, the Austrian parliament has called on the coalition government of Franz Vranitsky, the Chancellor, to consider withdrawing Austria from the EBRD because of the bank's support for the nuclear project.

The departure of Austria, which has a 2.3 per cent shareholding in the EBRD, could open the way to other countries reconsidering their commitment to the bank.

The need for the bank, whose headquarters are in the Broadgate complex in the City, was widely questioned when, in 1993, it was reported to have lavished more on buildings and staff than on target economies in the former Soviet bloc.

The Austrian government has traditionally kept a low profile on the international stage. However, its newly acquired membership of the European Union appears to have encouraged Vienna to make demands that some EBRD member countries regard as unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of another country.

The EBRD's contribution to the project will be DM412.5 million. The plan, which comes before the EBRD board for final approval next month, involves the completion, with Western technology, of four Soviet VVER-440/213 pressurised water reactors at Mochovce in southeast Slovakia.

However, Preussen Elektra, one of the two German power companies behind the scheme, has dropped out. Bayernwerk, the Bavarian utility company, said it remains committed to the scheme.

The DM92 million gap Preussen Elektra's departure left in the financing of the scheme, has been filled by Electricité de France (EdF), the French state controlled power group, making it the biggest corporate participant, with DM250 million. Euratom, the lending arm of the European Union's nuclear industry, is another backer.

Critics of Mochovce argue that it is giving Western European power utilities access to cheap nuclear energy from Eastern Europe, which they would be unable to produce at home because of domestic resistance to nuclear power.

EBRD officials, who counter that the Slovakian scheme would improve nuclear safety in Eastern Europe, not worsen it, said that the Mochovce scheme is still expected to be approved and that Preussen Elektra's dropping out would make no difference.

Pension deal set to lift MGN shares

SHARES in the Mirror Group (MGN) are expected to climb today, following the announcement of a £100 million gain from the settlement of the Maxwell pensions dispute after the stock market closed on Friday (Patricia Tehan writes).

MGN welcomed the agreement, which will enable the group to release more than £100 million of provisions made to cover the deficit in its pension scheme.

On Friday, the shares closed 3p higher at 138p. The £100 million of provisions is worth 24p a share to investors, and analysts are predicting a further rise today.

Ricardo Group is assisting Richard Noble's Thrust SSC land speed record attempt by providing six engineers to design the body panels. They will use experience gained from work on the aft fuselage of the Shorts Learjet 45.

Europe will miss target on 'greenhouse' gas, study says

By Graham Searjeant

INCREASED use of oil products for private and public transport will cause Europe to miss its target of stabilising emissions of "greenhouse" gases, a research report by economic forecasters concludes. After the turn of the century, growth in emissions is likely to accelerate again, because of changes in the electricity industry.

DRI says that energy-related emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas mainly blamed for causing global warming, are likely to have risen by 6.4 per cent between 1990 and the end of the century. Within this, transport is likely to pump out 22 per cent more across Western Europe.

The European Union, and several individual countries such as Britain, have pledged to return emissions to 1990 levels by 2000. Others, including Germany, Denmark and the Benelux countries, have promised cuts ranging from 3 to 30 per cent. Based on economic and industrial forecasts, however, DRI expects 14 European countries, including Britain, to miss their targets. Germany and Belgium may come close, but solely because the recession was worse than they expected. Only France, Spain and the Irish Republic, which all allowed themselves increases in carbon dioxide over the period, would meet their targets.

The EU has conceded that its target is unlikely to be met on present national policies. The DRI forecasts are likely to raise pressure for further policy moves at a conference to be held in Berlin next month when countries that made commitments to the Rio summit on environment and development will review progress.

The most shocking element in the DRI study is a projection that emissions will rise by 15 per cent between 2000 and 2015. DRI blames this acceleration squarely on the decline of nuclear power.

European countries are becoming more energy-efficient and their industries less energy-intensive, so that demand for power will grow much slower than output. But this effect will be heavily outweighed by the switch from nuclear power to producing electricity from fossil fuels, principally gas and coal. These give off carbon dioxide when burnt.

Since the Sizewell B station started operating in Suffolk, no West European country except France has any plans to add nuclear generating capacity, according to DRI. As a result, it projects that nuclear power will decline from 40 per cent of electricity supplies in 2000 to 30 per cent by 2015 as old stations are phased out. Renewable forms of energy will grow rapidly, DRI predicts, but still meet only 3 per cent of demand by 2015.

M&S pulls ahead in store wars

By Susan Gilchrist

MARKS & SPENCER, Next and River Island are winning the battle in the high street, according to a report by Verdict, the retail analyst.

Its latest study of the £20 billion clothing market shows that these three have gained share at the expense of competitors in the past two years.

M&S has seen its market share rise to 15.6 per cent, from 14.7 per cent, since 1992. Verdict says this growth has been driven by its heightened price competitiveness, and proves the chain still has significant growth potential in the UK.

Next now has 2.4 per cent of the market and River Island has lifted its share to 1.5 per cent from 1.3 per cent.

The Burton Group's multiple chains, such as Top Shop/Top Man and Principles, have seen their share fall to 5.6 per cent, from 6.2 per cent. Littlewoods and Etam have also lost ground.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Managers bullish on UK equities

THE latest monthly survey of fund managers conducted by Gallup for Smith New Court, the City securities house, has found that fund managers are most bullish on prospects for UK equities out of all the global equity markets. The February survey, which involved 79 institutions handling funds totalling £963 billion, shows that a balance of 21 per cent of fund managers are looking to raise their weighting of UK equities. Respondents also expressed a preference for larger companies. Earnings growth forecasts edged downwards, but dividend growth expectations improved slightly.

The survey found fund managers were looking to increase their weighting in overseas bonds and deposits. The balance looking to raise their exposure to overseas bonds and deposits rose to 31 per cent, up from 17 per cent in January and 7 per cent in December. On the economy, respondents were less optimistic than in previous months. Only 55 per cent expect an improvement in the general economic situation, compared with 71 per cent in January. On average, fund managers expect base rates of 7.4 per cent in a year's time.

'Single currency by 2001'

AN OVERWHELMING majority of Britain's top finance directors think that a single European currency will be in place by 2001, according to a survey carried out for the BBC's *The Money Programme*. Of the 100 directors polled, only 35 thought it was likely to be in place by 1997; 71 expect it to be in place in 1999; and 86 by two years later. The directors, selected from Britain's top 500 companies, were telephoned last week on the eve of Kenneth Clarke's speech. Almost two thirds of the directors believed that a single currency would be of benefit to their companies, while 28 per cent did not know whether it have an effect on their companies, and 12 thought it would be bad.

Expro heads for market

EXPRO GROUP, the independent supplier of oilfield services, intends to float this spring with an expected market capitalisation in excess of £100 million. The company, which was established in 1973 made a pre-tax profit of £10.4 million on turnover of £65.4 million in the year ended March 31, 1994. The group was the subject of a management buyout from Flextech, arranged and underwritten by CINVen in 1992. Ecodrill had been acquired in 1990 to offer qualified drilling engineers and a well engineering and drilling project management consultancy. The float will be sponsored by Robert Fleming and Cazenove will be brokers to the issue.

Business rate battle

BUSINESSES that take measures to protect their premises from burglary are to be punished with higher business rate bills, according to the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), which launches a campaign today to get the 1994 Valuation for Rating (Plant and Machinery) Regulations changed. John Harris, national chairman of the FSB, said: "If our members fit shutters to deter ram raiders then they are rewarded by an increase in their non-domestic rate bill." Members are calling upon MPs to support their campaign to change the rules on rates calculations. Security cameras, display screens, controls, sensors and relays are excluded from calculations but other plant and machinery from April 1 will be included.

Berlin property ruling

THE German Federal Administrative Court will today make a landmark decision concerning billions of marks worth of land assets in Berlin and whether they will be returned to their original owners. The ruling concerns more than 900 sites in the city, including many in prominent positions, where land prices are at a premium. A decision in favour of the former owners would, in some of the bigger cases, bring huge benefits to companies such as Kodak and Siemens. The property law that governs the return of assets seized by the Nazi regime, or by the East German government, does not apply to the period between 1945 and 1949, when East Germany was under direct military rule by the Soviet army.

Newmarch probe to end

THE Stock Exchange is hoping to complete its investigation into the share dealings carried out by Mick Newmarch, the former chief executive of the Prudential, this week. The timing of its report will depend on whether the Exchange's appeals procedure has been exhausted, and whether it feels that it needs to gather further evidence. Mr Newmarch made £202,775 last November by exercising share options and selling the shares hours before the Securities and Investments Board released details of its report into the mis-selling of pension transfers. Mr Newmarch's dramatic resignation last month came after the Stock Exchange began an investigation into his share dealings.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

TENEBROSO
(c) One of a group of early 17th-century Italian painters influenced by Caravaggio, whose work is characterised by dramatic contrasts of light and shade. "The naturalist school, called also the school of the Tenebrosi, or *shadow painters*."

TOROID
(c) An object shaped like a torus, ie a figure generated by the revolution of a circle or other conic section about a straight line in its own plane. From the Latin *torus* a bulge or swelling. "The term toroid in this connection means a circular coil of *n* turns of wire wound so that the cross-section is a circle."

SHIATSU
(b) A kind of therapy, of Japanese origin, in which pressure is applied with the thumbs and palms to certain points on the body, transliteration of the Japanese word, which means literally "finger-pressure". "Shiatsu was developed centuries ago in Japan as a refinement of the acupuncture treatment from China."

SECKO
(b) Australian slang for a sexual pervert or a sex offender, a shortened form of *sex + o*: " 'I noticed Australians use a lot of diminutives, like Chrissie, pressie and journo.' 'In jails sex offenders are called seckos.' I told him."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bc4! throws a spanner in the works. If 1 ... Nxc4 or 1 ... Bxc4, White safely captures the black queen with 2 Rxd8. If Black saves the queen with 1 ... Qe7, then 2 Bxa2 wins a piece for White.

UK set for £650m Samsung boost

By Our World Trade Correspondent

Lee Kun Hee: eyeing UK

BRITAIN is centre-frame for a £650 million investment by Samsung, the globally expanding South Korean industrial conglomerate, in a new microchip plant to serve the European market.

Industry sources said yesterday that in all discussions of the microchip plant project to date, Britain, which last year secured a £450 million investment from Samsung for a complex at Wynyard, Cleveland, to produce microwaves and monitors, had been the favoured choice for the new factory.

Samsung, chaired by Lee Kun Hee, is a leading-edge player in microchip technology, especially in memory chips. Its exports have benefitted from the strength of the yen, which has created problems for its Japanese rivals.

The group's Samsung Electronics wants to build $1 billion microchip plants in Europe, America and Asia. Last year, it supplied the European market with about $1 billion worth of microchips, a third of which came to Britain, from production facilities in Korea.

Its microchip sales in Europe rose by about 100 per cent last year as economic recovery and modernisation boosted world demand. Figures issued in Seoul yesterday, showed that the lucrative Samsung Electronics increased its net profit last year by a provisional 450 per cent to 850 billion won (£690 million), mainly reflecting overseas demand for microchips. Sales surged to 11.3 trillion won, from 8.15 trillion won.

When unveiling its plans for the Wynyard complex, and its simultaneous decision to switch its European headquarters from Frankfurt to London, Samsung said that operations in Cleveland could be extended to micro-chips by 1999.

The company was unwilling to comment on reports from America that the European microchip plant was intended to go into production in 1997. However, industry sources suggested that such a timetable would be too tight.

Samsung is understood to be looking into the environmental suitability of the Wynyard site for the new microchip facility, but a Scottish location might prove more favourable.

Samsung employs 200,000 people worldwide, including 300 at a television plant at Billingham, Cleveland.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.20	2.03
Austria Sch	17.72	16.22
Belgium Fr	51.88	47.58
Canada $	2.287	2.127
Cyprus Cyp£ .	0.775	0.720
Denmark Kr ...	9.97	9.17
Finland Mkk ...	7.90	7.25
France Fr	8.67	8.02
Germany Dm .	2.53	2.32
Greece Dr	393.00	368.00
Hong Kong $	12.67	11.67
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Italy Lira	2625.00	2470.00
Japan Yen	168.00	152.00
Malta	0.613	0.558
Netherlds Gld	2.815	2.585
Norway Kr	10.99	10.19
Portugal Esc ..	256.00	237.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.28
Spain Pta	212.00	198.00
Sweden Kr	12.19	11.39
Switzerland Fr	2.14	1.98
Turkey Lira	refer	61434.0
USA $	1.653	1.523

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5607 (-0.0040)
German mark
2.3785 (-0.0077)
Exchange index
78.8 (-0.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2364.8 (+45.0)
FT-SE 100
3109.9 (+50.2)
New York Dow Jones
3939.07 (+10.43)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
18291.35 (247.62)

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People feeling poor is bad news for business

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Howard Davies, in his personal capacity as a member of the Rowntree inquiry into income and wealth, was worried by the growth of relative poverty in Britain. As Director-General of the CBI, he might ask this question: Does any big CBI member company aim to raise pay rates as fast as dividends? There may be some; I can think of none. Today's typical boardroom mission is to grow dividends strongly in real terms, but to keep pay rises low.

There are reasons. As income from risk capital, dividends are more volatile than wages and many big companies fail dismally in their mission. Some cut dividends heavily in the recession. Banks, for instance, had a hard time. Now they are reporting booming profits and dividends while many are still axing employees and keeping real pay stagnant. But there is more to it.

Twenty years ago, when Margaret Thatcher became Conservative Party leader, the boot was on the other foot. Trade union power was rampant. That certainly helped to boost nominal wages. More importantly, overmanning, inflexible working, accommodating inflation, and the incidence of taxation hobbled big business. Those who can remember the great bear market of 1974 will recall the despair of investing institutions. Many socialists rubbed their hands, for profit was a dirty word. They forgot that the profits and dividends were needed to fund employees' pensions.

In those days, the rate of profit was plainly far too low to finance investment and growth.

After the demise of union power, it was vital to rebuild the share of profit in the economy, to finance growth and to fund pensions for an ageing population. That may prove to be a one-off adjustment, rudely interrupted by two recessions. In the process, however, prevailing business and policy attitudes have swung to the opposite extreme.

Those humble investors, now marshalled in global financial markets, have become the new tyrants terrorising boardrooms. Public policy is geared to consumers and the producer interest is now demonised — by Labour as much as by the Government. Just as we all ultimately rely on profit, however, the vast majority also have a legitimate interest as producers. Those who press for consumers to get an ever better deal from utilities, for instance, must accept responsibility for the hundreds of thousands of steady, properly paid, full-time jobs that are lost in consequence.

Under the new orthodoxy, people have become merely cost centres. Only in the upper echelons, where individuals are deemed to make a difference, are pay and perks regarded as a necessary incentive and reward. No wonder the spread of incomes has widened. Under this code, a ruinously expensive one for taxpayers, employers are not supposed to have any social responsibility for maintaining jobs or for paying wages that can support a family. Under the harsh disciplines of the market, their job is to minimise costs and be competitive. The social consequences are to be left to a benevolent state. So big employers "downsize the headcount" rather than expand output, exploit more favourable bargaining conditions and axe full-time jobs in favour of part-time work, at much lower hourly rates. The state, as employer, is following suit. The steep decline in full-time jobs for men, along with family breakdown, is the prime cause of rising poverty.

Attention has focused on the claimed fall in living standards for the poorest tenth of the population, whose incomes often depend on welfare payments. As Professor Patrick Minford noted in *The Times*, the equivalent group in America has fared much worse. That is hardly a commendation for US policies, now so fashionable in Britain, to shoehorn such people into the bottom of the workforce.

More important for business, however, is the fall in the share of incomes of those not so far below the average. These are generally people in work, families that now need two earners to make a decent living. In the 1950s and 1960s, no one would have thought such families poor. By 1991, according to the Rowntree figures, nearly half of the third poorest tenth of the population were receiving means-tested benefits — as opposed to transfers such as state pensions and child benefit. About 20 per cent of those in the fourth and fifth deciles, those just below the average, received income support, housing benefit or the like. In effect, they are classified by society, and no doubt by themselves, as poor.

In one sense, the welfare state is working. But people feel much better off if they earn their income, rather than having the same income made up by the state. So do taxpayers. The decline of full-time jobs and more frequent temporary unemployment, allied to the sharp rise in rents, has made more people feel poor. That is why the Rowntree report strikes more of a chord than similar analyses a few years ago. It also helps to explain why government is unpopular, why the housing market is stuck, why so many resent directors' pay and why, most alarmingly, profit is again becoming a dirty word.

Competition will not get any easier and few would wish a return of 1970s union power. Unless some of these trends are reversed, however, public opinion will surely again turn anti-business. Reversing fiscal incentives, such as those that hit the family, would make a useful start. Employers' National Insurance contributions cut the demand for labour and give incentives to substitute low-paid, part-time work for full-time jobs. Employers could be given incentives via the tax system to increase employment and to pay decent wages, rather than being penalised. Moderating the new culture will take longer.

RADIO CHOICE

Of importance, more or less

The Importance of Being Earnest. *Radio 4, 7.45pm.*

Expect some pleasant, and less pleasant, surprises when you listen to this production marking the 100th anniversary of Oscar Wilde's peerless comedy. There are chunks of dialogue you have probably never heard before. The reason, quite simply, is that tonight's text is a melding of the play's three-act and four-act versions. To make room for the unfamiliar lines some of the familiar and well-loved dialogue has had to go. On balance, I would say the gains outnumber the losses. With one singular exception, all the performances are fine. A little more asperity — in fact, a great deal more asperity — would not have come amiss in Judi Dench's Lady Bracknell. The thump of a handbag has replaced the swish of a battle-axe.

Buongiorno, Tenore! *Radio 3, 9.15pm.*

The opera memoirs of the tenor John Dobson are spread across five nights on Radio 3 this week. His is a splendid record — more than 2,000 performances in 100 roles. He was on the payroll at Covent Garden in the halcyon days when there were no fewer than seven salaried Amonasros and seven basses. His Prince Shuisky to Christoff's Boris Godunov almost ended in his throttling the celebrated Bulgarian bass. Before that, he was in the audience watching Callas's Norma, Flagstad's Brünnhilde, the first performance in Britain of *Wozzeck*, and the first staging anywhere of *Billy Budd*.

Peter Davalle

Are employment reforms working? **Philip Bassett** hears both sides

Flexibility faces jobs test

Michael Portillo, left, and John Monks are at odds on whether the labour market has been reformed or just frightened

When British ministers head for Copenhagen in March to join political leaders from around the globe for the United Nations' world social summit, they will proclaim the flexibility of the UK labour market as central to Britain's prescription for cutting unemployment and increasing jobs.

Ahead of the latest UK job figures this week, the Government is publishing what is perhaps its most sustained and detailed claim for the effectiveness of labour market flexibility. However, at the same time, Britain's trade unions today unveil an analysis casting doubt on whether that flexibility has in fact delivered jobs for the UK economy.

The direct clash between the two views, from Michael Portillo's Department of Employment and the TUC, led by John Monks, neatly encapsulates the continuing argument over a central plank of the Government's economic policy.

"Flexible labour markets play a central role in improving the performance of the economy through their capacity to adapt quickly to changing economic conditions," says the Government's study. But the TUC says of its report today: "The Government's claim that their policy of labour market deregulation has increased the level of employment is misleading and inaccurate."

The Government's study, previewed in the latest issue of the Employment Department's *Gazette*, is careful to make no specific party political claims, though it says that a "wide range of indicators" suggest that the British labour market has become more flexible "since the end of the 1970s".

However, the TUC says: "Deregulation has not secured a better employment or unemployment performance, and especially not on long-term unemployment, either in comparison with the previous recession, or with the years before 1979."

For flexibility, the Government argues that greater flexibility has been driven by a range of factors. Government policy is one, but only one: the others include greater national and global competition, technological change, and shifts in labour demand and supply, including the increased participation of women in the workforce. These have all combined to increase flexibility at microeconomic and macroeconomic levels.

At the micro level, in terms of employment and hours worked, new developments in external flexibility — the number of people employed — such as the growth of self-employment and part-time and temporary work allow employers to match labour supply more closely to demand. With such trends, the Government concludes that "British employers face relatively few constraints on their ability to exploit external flexibility, and these constraints appear to have eased during the 1980s".

In terms of internal flexibility, the Employment Department report cites changes in average hours — including what it terms "reservism", the zero-hours contracts by which employees wait to be called in by telephone as needed, with no hours specified — as clear indicators of greater flexibility.

At macro level, the Government accepts that there is less evidence of greater flexibility in the key aspect of wages. It notes that "unemployment does not seem to have been much of a restraining influence on real earnings".

However, it does claim that there is now evidence of employment levels responding more quickly to changed economic conditions, and suggests that this change in labour input indicates that external flexibility may be more important than internal flexibility.

Against flexibility, the TUC's report differs profoundly from the government analysis. The study, which will be presented today to the UN's International Labour Organisation as part of the ILO's investigation of the extent of member states' commitment to policies of full employment, claims to be the "first comprehensive challenge" to the Government's claims of a successful record on jobs.

Unemployment fell early, it says, not because more jobs have been created, but because more people have been forced out of the labour market. Employment did not recover unusually early, and the UK labour force is smaller now than it was a year ago.

On flexibility, the TUC study shows that the proportion of temporary workers, far from rising, has hardly changed in a decade, and that the number is currently declining; that self-employment, though bigger, is proportionately only marginally up over the last ten years; and that while part-time work is up, this is part of a long-term trend and is not principally associated with the Government's deregulatory policies.

What the unions argue is that more employees "are 'flexible' in that they are scared of losing their job".

Greater insecurity, the TUC says, stems from high unemployment and continued job losses in household name companies; low-paid and poor-quality jobs for those joining or returning to the labour market; and "vastly increased" wage inequality, increasing reliance on state benefits to subsidise low-paid work.

The unions argue that increased flexibility is a chimera that has produced no employment growth of any substance, but merely increased employees' vulnerability.

The Employment Department study ends on a relatively tentative note, suggesting that whether its charted indications of greater flexibility lead to "sustained increases in output and employment" will depend on a number of factors, including the growth of aggregate earnings.

Ministers are unlikely to be shackled by such strained neutrality when they beat the drum in Copenhagen for the Government's approach to the labour market — in Britain and beyond. For the Government, the advantages of flexibility are clear. However, even after a two-year downward trend in unemployment, which ministers hope, a little nervously, will continue this week, evidence on the rise in jobs is not yet anywhere near conclusive enough for those sceptical about greater workforce flexibility to abandon their doubts.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Speed kings in the City

IF YOU have ever wanted to speed like hell in the City, toot your horn like Mr Toad, and vent your frustration at those traffic bollards, here's your chance. On July 6, a go-kart race is being staged in Paternoster Square, as one of many events in aid of The Lord Mayor's Appeal for the British Heart Foundation. The go-kart event calls for 20 teams of four drivers, and a host of institutions already have their goggles and kneepads at the ready. The appeal, whose target is £1 million, is also planning a City Dip day on February 24, a 10 km jog, walk and-or crawl through the Tower of London day on May 10, and an abseiling day for 300 stout hearts down the 150ft Bowring Tower on May 18. If none of this appeals, how about a shooting event at the Mansion House on September 21?. Bring your worst client. Invite your boss. And if anybody feels unloved *tomorrow*, then trot along to Liverpool Street Station, where special Valentine cards will be given to those making a donation to the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

Cry for cash

GROWN companies don't cry, but they do help others who do, and United Distillers, American Express, and British Gas, among others, have already helped Lady Lucas of Chilworth in her fund-raising works for Romania. Lady Lucas, whose former husband was a minister at the Department of Trade and Industry, is rattling her tin on behalf of the charity Cry (Care and Relief for the Young), which, in association with the City of Bucharest, is setting up a training centre for childcare workers in the Romanian capital. The project is £40,000 shy of its £160,000 target. Lady Lucas, recently returned from Egypt, says she is willing to sing (or at least hum) a specially composed ditty set to the tune of the hymn *The Church's One Foundation*, and which concerns her trip up The Nile, if Cry can complete its project by the end of February.

Shopping list

LORD CAIRNS, chief executive of SG Warburg, was spotted in shops near his Notting Hill home on Saturday morning. A rare occurrence because he usually weekends in Wiltshire. Was he stocking up for a long weekend or using shopping as therapy? Or was it just a modest financial transaction before crisis talks at Warburg yesterday!

COLIN CAMPBELL

We of little faith in anti-inflation drive

GILT-EDGED

There are two views on the outlook for inflation — those of the policy-makers, and those of the rest of us. The Bank of England expects inflation in 1996 of 2.5 per cent, and the Treasury expects even lower rates thereafter. The rest of us see things differently. Only one-fifth of the forecasters surveyed by the Bank of England believe that the Government will succeed in getting inflation in the lower half of its 1 to 4 per cent target range by 1996. Many expect inflation to rise above even 4 per cent, according to the spreads between gilt and index-linked yields. In the real world, CBI surveys show that price expectations have shot up, while Gallup surveys suggest that workers expect inflation of 4.5 per cent over the next year.

Why is there this chasm between policy-makers and the outside world? The obvious explanation is that not everyone believes the Government's commitment to low inflation. The need for a pre-election "feel-good factor" — especially for homeowners — may overcome any current declarations of good intent. And, anyway, look at history. £M3, M0, repayment of the national debt, shadowing the Deutschmark and ERM membership are all policy targets that have been tried and abandoned. Why should we believe that this time will be any different?

However, this is not the only explanation. Even those of us who trust the Government far more than it deserves to be trusted have reasons to doubt its optimism.

One reason is simply that, as a small economy, we are at the mercy of external influences. Even with the most determined policy-makers, UK inflation may rise if inflation overseas rises. The Bank of England's reply to this is that "if exchange-rate movements offset the difference between UK and foreign inflation, overseas price increases will not affect UK inflation". This is true, but the Bank's conclusion — that "in the long run, domestic inflation is determined by domestic monetary policy" — does not follow at all. The exchange rate is not determined by domestic monetary policy. Instead, as we discovered in 1992, it is at the mercy of fickle financial markets. In driving sterling down, the markets could force inflation up.

A second reason is that the authorities may have the determination to reduce inflation, but they do not have the means. It is doubtful whether higher interest rates do reduce inflation. A working paper published by, of all sources, the Bank of England, said that "the dynamic response of prices following a monetary shock is, at first blush, difficult to reconcile with theory; the inflation response appears perverse for the first 12 to 18 months". Translated from jargon, this means higher interest rates lead to *higher* inflation. I can think of 14 reasons why this should be — a decent economist could no doubt think of more.

The Bank believes that, after 18 months, weaker demand would start to reduce inflation from this higher level. However, even this is doubtful. Inflation feeds on itself, and the effects of falling demand on inflation are weak and lagged. So, interest rates may take much longer to cut inflation than the two years assumed by the current policy framework.

All of this means that Mr Clarke's reassurances will not significantly reduce inflation expectations, simply because his determination is not the issue. No one doubts Manchester United's determination to win the European Cup next season. We simply doubt that they have the resources to overcome superior opposition. The same is true of Mr Clarke.

This is worrying for the gilt market. The authorities, because they wrongly see high inflation expectations as a "lack of credibility", may keep raising rates. As the Bank said last week: "Higher interest rates should affect price expectations, by convincing more people of the authorities' commitment to low inflation." However, because that commitment is not the point, higher rates will not necessarily reduce price expectations. All they will do is raise the cost of holding gilts, thus forcing up the whole of the yield curve.

Sadly, it is not only the gilt market that will suffer from the authorities' misperception of the cause of high inflation expectations. Whether the Government wins or loses the "fight against inflation", the main casualties, in the long run, will be jobs and businesses.

CHRIS DILLOW
Nomura Research Institute

RADIO 1

FM Stereo **4.00am** Bruno Brookes **6.30** Steve Wright **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa L'Anson with the Lunchtime Show, including at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier featuring The Amazing Spiderman, including at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session: Featuring sessions from Weezer, and Electrafixion **9.00** Lee and Herring **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **Midnight** Claire Sturgess

RADIO 2

FM Stereo **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce, including at **10.00** Pick of the Hits **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Campbell Burnap with Dance Band Days, and at **8.00** Big Band Era **8.30** Big Band Special: from the Empire Theatre, Sunderland (1/2) **9.00** Humphrey Lyttelton with the Best of Jazz **10.00** Adventures in Jazz: Jools Holland presents six concerts featuring Britain's best young jazz performers, beginning with trumpeter Gerard Presencer **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes **1.00** Steve Madden **3.00-6.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **8.35** The Magazine, including at **10.35** Euronews. **11.00** Actuality **12.00** Midday with Mair, including at **12.34pm** Liz Barclay with Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra, including at **7.20** sport **7.35** Giant-Killers' 1989 — Sutton United v Coventry City **8.00** The Monday Match: West Ham v Everton at Upton Park **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra, incl **11.45** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** The Other Side of Midnight **2.05** Up All Night

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT** **4.30am** BBC English **4.45** Fruhmagazin **5.00** Newshour **6.00** Morgenmagazin **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** *Jean de Florette* **7.30** Human Herbivores **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Health Matters **8.30** Anything Goes **9.00** News **9.05** Business Report **9.15** Lances to Lasers **9.30** The Learning World **9.45** Sport **10.00** News **10.01** The Rape of Mitteleuropa **10.30** The Vintage Chart Show **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **12.00** World News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** My Music **12.45** Sport **1.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** *Jean de Florette* **2.45** Early Versions **3.00** News **3.15** Lessons in Anatomy **4.00** News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Heute Aktuell **5.00** News **5.05** Business Report Special **5.15** BBC English **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.00** News **7.05** Outlook **7.30** The Essential Qur'an **7.45** Health **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The World Today **8.30** Europe Today **9.00** News **10.05** Business Report Special **10.15** Meridian **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Multitrack: Hit List **12.00** News **12.15am** A Jolly Good Show **1.00** News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** Folk Routes **1.45** Health **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** My Music **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** John Peel **4.00** Newsdesk

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Classic Reports **7.00** The LSO — 90 Legendary Years 1984-1994 **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Mark Griffiths **1.00am** André Leon

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Wendy Lloyd **7.00** Paul Coyle **11.00** Nick Abbot **2.00am** Janey Lee Grace

RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: Culture and Belief in Europe: The Cosmos **6.55** Weather

7.00 On Air: Hummel (Introduction, Theme and Variations, Op 102); Godowsky (Miniatures, Third set); Saint-Saëns (Cello Concerto No 1 in A minor, Op 33), Georg Muffat (Concerto Convalescentia in F); Massenet (Elégie); **8.30** *Quartet Collection*: Haydn (String Quartet in C)

9.00 Composer of the Week: Hector Berlioz. A programme with Italian connections

10.00 Musical Encounters: Stephanie Hughes presents a week of programmes from Belfast. Malcolm Arnold (A Flourish); Constant Lambert (Ballet Suite, Horoscope); **10.40** *Artist of the Week*: Malcolm Proud, harpsichord. Bach (Prelude and Fugue in A minor); **10.55** J. Strauss, son (An der schönen blauen Donau); Ibert (Suite symphonique, Paris); Philip Martin (Piano Concerto No 2, A Day in the City); Walton (In Honour of the City of London)

12.00 Britannia at the Opera: Highlights of the BBC Concert Orchestra under James Lockhart in a performance of Edward Loder's dramatic work, *Raymond and Agnes*

1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert: Golub, Kaplan and Carr Trio, live from St John's, Smith Square, London

2.00 Schools: Twentieth-century Soundbites **2.15** Storybox **2.25** Let's Move **2.45** First Steps in Drama

3.00 Ulster Orchestra under Adrian Leaper performs Goldmark (Rustic Wedding Symphony)

3.45 Pachelbel: Hans Fagius continues his exploration of organ music by Johann Pachelbel

4.30 Oster's Blues: Professor Harry Oster talks to Francis Wilford-Smith about the bluesmen he discovered in New Orleans in 1960

5.00 The Music Machine: Sarah Jane Morris at the Wavendon Jazz summer course

5.15 In Tune, presented by Richard Baker

7.30 EBU International Concert Season, live from Baden, Baden in Germany. South West German SO under Michael Gielen performs Schreker (Der Geburtstag der Infantin); Webern (Variations); Ives (Two Contemplations); **8.20** David Huckvale on the mystical background to the works of Busoni and Varèse; **8.40** Busoni (Nocturne symphonique); Varèse (Arcana)

9.15 Buongiorno, Tenore! See Choice

9.40 New Waves: A series of concerts featuring young composers working with young artists, recorded at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. The pianist Rolf Hind and the composer Gerald Barry talk to Chris de Souza

10.45 Mixing It, with Robert Sandall and Mark Russell

11.30-12.30am Music Restored: The Orlando Consort with the organist James O'Donnell performs music from pre-Reformation England

1.00-1.40 Night School: Letterbox **1.20** Singing Together

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping **6.00 News**, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **7.25**, **8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40 Who Goes Home**: Roy Hattersley looks back on a lifetime in the Labour Party with a wry smile **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, presented by Melvyn Bragg and Kate Saunders. With Ann Leslie, Philip Hedley, Jon Stallworthy and Professor James O'Connell

10.00-10.30 News; Worldly Wise (FM only), with Peter Hobday

10.00 Daily Service (LW only) from Chester Cathedral

10.15 Something Understood (LW only): Beginnings. Readings from cultures across the world

10.30 Woman's Hour: The American soul singer Doris Troy talks to Jenni Murray

11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444 from 10am

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm Counterpoint: Ned Sherrin conducts the music quiz **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; The Enchanting Evil, by Dame Barbara Cartland. Sir Hector Stanyon commands Melinda, his orphaned niece, to marry an elderly suitor. She refuses and escapes by train to London where she is befriended by a seemingly respectable lady who makes her an amazing offer. With Jenny Funnell, Timothy Bentinck and Roger Hume

3.00 The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Natalie Wheen's guests include the American composer Michael Torke; and there is a performance from the Apollo Saxophone Quartet

4.45 Short Story: White Places. Teresa Gallagher reads Mary Flanagan's story

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 News 6.30 Just a Minute: Derek Nimmo, Peter Jones, Tony Hawkes and Jeremy Hardy try to talk for a minute without hesitation, repetition or deviation. The chairman is Nicholas Parsons (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 The Food Programme (r)

7.45 The Monday Play: The Importance of Being Earnest. See Choice

9.00 Blessing the Beauty Shop: Anja Sharma explores the family history behind the opening of a new beauty salon **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight

10.45 Book at Bedtime: News from Nowhere, by William Morris (1/5) (r)

11.00-11.30 Eureka! (FM only): Richard Leakey discusses with Barbara Myers his life, palaeontology and wildlife conservation in Kenya (r)

11.00-11.30 Education Matters (LW only), presented by *Times* columnist Libby Purves. Including a report on Family Literacy Week

11.30 The Three Musketeers (FM only): Final part of Alexandre Dumas's swashbuckler (r)

12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** As World Service (LW)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2**: FM-88-90.2. **RADIO 3**: FM-90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4**: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. **RADIO 5**: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. **LONDON RADIO**: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. **CAPITAL**: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. **GLR**: FM 94.9; **WORLD SERVICE**: MW 648kHz/463m. **CLASSIC FM**: FM-100-102. **VIRGIN**: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. **Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey**

High-spirited fillies will go the distance

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

The yelping was all worth it, as it turns out. Last week's **The Buccaneers** (BBC 1) may have overdone it slightly, but it was just taking a leaf from *Black Beauty*, that other great American classic of gorgeous, spirited horseflesh. First you must see the ponies running wild and free, bucking and neighing for pure pleasure (with chums called things like Merrylegs). And then they must be lured into harnesses, which constrain and chafe them, and finally they must be brought buckling to their knees. Poor Conchita married the worthless Lord Richard. Poor Virginia has now married the loveless Seadown. Poor Nan is poised to commit herself to a duke whose greatest joy is the simultaneous chiming of the family clocks. I am glad now that the girls got their time in the sunshine. (*Note from editor: I'm confused. Which one married Merrylegs?*)

Last week, it looked as though *The Buccaneers* would be remembered for the glory of the frocks and the photography (which are superb), but this week, with the plot cooking, such frivolity was not to be thought of. The girls have become more than the sum of their frills. Each character is subtly splintering off, bewildered, to face the inevitable ruination of hope. The acting has deepened. Big, uneasy Chekhovian scenes are handled superbly — the arrival at Runnymede of the fierce, forsaken Idina (Jenny Agutter), for example. Like a human earthquake in tight lacing, she broke up the lazy summer swaining at *her* cottage, challenged the Americans at cards, lost badly, and then uncontrollably goaded the company until she forced the conclusion she feared the most (her lover's engagement to another woman).

Time is foreshortened in *The Buccaneers*, as is distance. It's hard to know where the houses are, and how long has been spent in them. Girls receive proposals, and are married within the half-hour. When Colonel St George appeared suddenly at a billiard table, one assumed momentarily that the scene had switched to New York — but no, he was the guest of Lord Brightlingsea (Dinsdale Landen on brilliant form), and time had telescoped yet again. Interesting the way some of Edith Wharton's names have been changed by the adapter, Maggie Wadey — Idina Churt becomes Idina Hatton, Guy Thwarte becomes Guy Thwaite. Perhaps *Idina's hurt* and *Guy's thwartedness* were clear enough without the underlining.

Funny old Sir Peter Hall came up with a strange opinion in Saturday night's **Arena: The Peter Sellers Story** (BBC 2). He said that Sellers was as good an actor as Alec Guinness and Laurence Olivier. Isn't that peculiar? One often wonders whether pundits engage the marbles before they speak, but Hall has such a measured intelligence — in professional matters he is so accurate, so *nice* — that you can't imagine him making random remarks to be regretted after.

One thing is sure: if celluloid evidence exists of Peter Sellers's supreme gift, Peter Lydon's three-part biography will find it. This is a painstaking piece — conventional in style, packed with matter, years in the making. But where normally a commentary unfolds against a mix of stills and clips (sometimes only approximately relevant), here Sellers's own home movie archive provides pictures for every occasion, so that the man is constantly on the screen, in motion, always "on". Sellers's son Michael remembered his father as a man with a light meter: he was deeply in love with the camera. On the set of *I'm All Right, Jack* (1959), there is film of Sellers arriving by car at the studio, milling on set with the director; and then a silent, balletic, Buster Keaton-ish sequence of him driving a fork-lift truck. There is, apparently, no end to this man's footage.

For his performance in *I'm All Right, Jack*, Sellers won the Bafta that Olivier didn't get for *The Entertainer*, so perhaps Sir Peter has a point. Meanwhile Lydon skirted delicately around the usual trite conclusion about comics and impersonators — that they don't know who they really are, that perhaps (gasp!) they are nobody. Sellers is a prime candidate for such an analysis: additionally, he fits the mould of spoiled baby perfectly, without touching the sides. When Sellers got rich, he bought toys. When he got married, he spent his evenings making model boats with Graham Stark. Mercifully no film of this, overlaid with funny voices, appears to exist.

Lastly, I hate to be a kill-joy, but the first of the new series **A Bit of Fry and Laurie** (BBC 1) afflicted me with an unmistakable *déjà vu* last night, and not only because it brought back painful memories of Fry and Laurie's *Christmas Night with the Stars*. No, the difficult "bit" was the sketch based on Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*, cleverly inverted so that the hero, through divine intervention, learns how much better the world would have been *if he had never been born*. This seemed eerily familiar to me, mainly because I wrote a story with a highly similar gist, several years ago, which has been broadcast twice on Radio 4 and published both in *The Listener* and in a book of short stories. (In Fry and Laurie's version the chap was Rupert Murdoch; in mine, it wasn't.)

Though I understand there is no copyright in ideas, it still strikes me as rather unfair that in the future, when people read my story, they will assume I nicked the idea from *A Bit of Fry and Laurie*. It's like suddenly discovering that you never existed. On the other hand, since we both nicked the idea from *It's a Wonderful Life* in the first place, I assume I haven't a leg to stand on.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast with Paul Burden and Sara Coburn (13023)

7.00 Breakfast News (62756348)

9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (9101139)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7277348) **10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick**. Weekday magazine (s) (88746684)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1152874) **12.05 Pebble Mill**. A special edition celebrating the tenth anniversary of *EastEnders* (s) (2388416) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (75460706)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (78941)

1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (82115955) **1.50 Timekeepers**. Quiz game (s) (82119771)

2.15 Knots Landing. American drama spin-off from the *Dallas* saga (s) (6436684). **Wales:** Welsh Questions Live **3.00 Today's Gourmet**. Jacques Pepin prepares a Puerto Rican dish (8936)

3.30 Cartoon (9542042) **3.45 Bodger and Badger** (s) (9547597) **4.00 Jackanory**. Rik Mayall with part one of Kay Umansky's *The Fwog Pwince The Twuth!* (r) (s) (4410771) **4.10 The Legend Of Prince Valiant**. (Ceefax) (s) (4333495) **4.35 Tomorrow's End** (r). (Ceefax) (5608313)

5.00 Newsround (7352868) **5.10 Blue Peter**. A behind-the-scenes look at the filming of *The Biz!*, a new drama following the fortunes of students at a performing arts school. (Ceefax) (s) (9868348)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (876139). **Northern Ireland:** Inside Ulster

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (918)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (110)

7.00 Champion Telly Addicts. The first semi-final of the champion of champions competition (s) (6145)

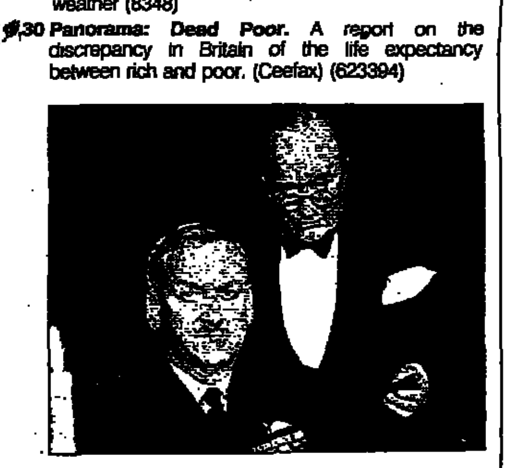
7.30 Watchdog. Consumer magazine presented by Anne Robinson. (Ceefax) (s) (394)

8.00 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (9665)

8.30 The Detectives. Comedy series starring Jasper Carrott and Robert Powell. (Ceefax) (s) (1400)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8348)

9.30 Panorama: Dead Poor. A report on the discrepancy in Britain of the life expectancy between rich and poor. (Ceefax) (623394)



John Thaw and Robert Hardy (10.10pm)

10.10 CHOICE **Bomber Harris** (r). (Ceefax) (6410400) **Northern Ireland** The Back Page 10.35 Farewell, The Derry Road 11.15 Bomber Harris 12.40am-1.10 Film 95; **Wales:** A Parent's Guide 10.25 Asylum 10.55 Bomber Harris 12.20am Film 95 12.50-2.15 Film: The Gate

11.40 Film 95 With Barry Norman. Includes reviews of *The Shawshank Redemption* and *Bandit Queen*. (Ceefax) (s) (652481)

12.10am FILM: The Gate (1987) starring Stephen Dorff. Horror story of a teenager who discovers a secret entrance to Hell when his parents go away for the weekend. Directed by Tibor Takacs (4182795)

1.35 Weather (3170004)

BBC2

6.20 Open University: The Creation of Childhood **6.45** Disappearing Childhood **7.10** Working with Systems **7.35** Women Artists: Feminist Strategies (13824892)

8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (7596400)

8.15 Westminster On-Line with Sarah Baxter. The guests are MPs Theresa Gorman and Sir Teddy Taylor (s) (4189400)

9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, **10.00-1.25** Playdays (2216145) **2.00** Tales of Aesop (41651400) **2.05** Rupert (41650771)

2.10 FILM: Warm Hearts, Cold Feet (1987) starring Margaret Colin and Tim Matheson. Comedy about two journalists, married to each other but working on rival newspapers, who start writing about each other in their respective columns. Directed by James Frawley. (Ceefax) (805400). Includes, at **3.00, News** and weather **3.50 News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3879042)

4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (333)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. Innovative recipes (s) (435)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guests are victims of violent crime who offer advice on how to overcome the trauma of the experience. (Ceefax) (s) (4402597)

5.40 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (r) (145058)

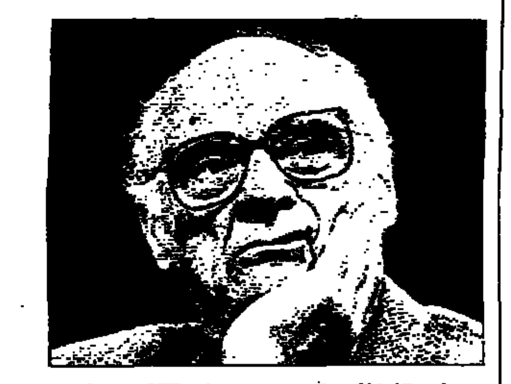
6.30 The Private Life of Plants: Living Together. Sir David Attenborough examines the battle for survival in the plant world (r). (Ceefax) (s) (454503)

7.20 CHOICE **Concertos From Coventry** (s) (18425481)

9.00 CHOICE **Blood and Peaches**. (Ceefax) (s) (3803969)

10.15 Jim Tavare Pictures Presents . . . Comedy series about a man and his double bass (s) (189077)

10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (947771)



Arthur Miller in conversation (11.15pm)

11.15 Face To Face. Jeremy Isaacs talks to the playwright Arthur Miller about his work, in Miller's first important interview for nearly a decade (s) (905435) **11.55 Weather** (352619)

12.00 Medicine: The Challenge Of Judgement (1883820)

12.25am Introduction To Design (6045578)

1.15-1.40 The Record. The day in Parliament (6404004)

2.00-4.00 Night School: Access To Learning — Go for It! (81191)

4.45-5.15 BBC Select: Disability Agenda (60179601) **5.00 Strathclyde TV — Putting You in the Picture** (1727356)

5.30-6.00 RCN Nursing Update (74004)

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CHOICE

Jayne Ashbourne and Stuart Laing (BBC2, 9.00pm)

Blood and Peaches
BBC2, 9.00pm

A Bradford-based story of teenage love owes much to the experiences of its writer, Martin Sadofski, and there is an authentic ring to his portrayal of the northern working-class community, with its thwarted aspirations, mind-numbing jobs and raucous sense of fun. The least likely incident, in which a dead cat is found in a chip fryer, actually happened. Beautifully played by Jayne Ashbourne and Stuart Laing, Sue and Steve are the youngsters whose stuttering romance finally blossoms during a rainstorm on Ilkley Moor. Back in the city, meanwhile, racist thugs are being whipped into a frenzy against the local Pakistanis. Rosemary Leach contributes a telling portrait of a grandmother who mourns her dead husband but tries not to live too much in the past.

Cutting Edge: A is for Accident
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Dreadful things take place daily on Britain's roads and with the help of police videos this frightening film brings us a selection of them. On the M6 in Cheshire it has been raining, vehicles are travelling too close and a Cavalier goes into a spin. There is collision after collision as traffic behind tries to take evasive action. The Cavalier drives off and is never traced. Elsewhere a young man is stopped for erratic driving. He is lippy with the police but let off with a warning. The next night he ploughs into a parked vehicle and nearly kills himself. "A grade A plonker," says the cop. Nine out of ten road casualties are caused by men, though we also hear of a woman who whiles away boring motorway journeys by doing crossword puzzles.

Concertos From Coventry
BBC2, 7.20pm

A live relay from Coventry Cathedral brings a concert to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Coventry's twin city of Dresden. The programme comprises two piano concertos written nearly 150 years apart. Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto is played by Stephen Kovacevich and Sir Michael Tippett's Piano Concerto by Martino Tirimo. The composers had contrasting attitudes towards war. Beethoven's response was heroic while Tippett was imprisoned in 1943 for his pacifist beliefs. There are, however, structural similarities between their concertos and these are explored by tonight's two pianists in an interval feature that also includes observations by John Amis, Lord Soper and Antony Hopkins.

Bomber Harris
BBC1, 10.10pm (Scotland, 11.30pm)

The bombing of Dresden is further recalled in Don Shaw's fact-based drama about Sir Arthur Harris, first shown in 1989. As head of Bomber Command, Harris pursued the obsession that the way to shorten the war was to bomb German cities, civilians and all. Critics questioned the morality of the policy as well as its effectiveness. Although Harris is presented as dedicated, patriotic and a victim of hypocrisy, Shaw's script even-handedly reveals the other side, as in Harris's brutal dismissal of his chaplain: "You return to your conscience and let me get back to the war." Harris is compellingly played by John Thaw, one of the best things he has done. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

6.00 GMTV (30232)

9.25 Chain Letters. Word game (s) (4981110) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (2120394)

10.00 The Time... the Place. Members of an invited studio audience air their views (s) (4310961)

10.35 This Morning (90381771) **12.20pm London Today** (Teletext) and weather (1158058)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (4904665)

12.55 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (4912684) **1.25 Home and Away** (Teletext) (61561110)

1.55 Capital Woman. A report on why Britain is a nation obsessed with collecting (s) (93428459)

2.25 A Country Practice (s) (61052329) **2.50 Blue Heelers**. Mrs Stewart goes to the police when she discovers a disturbing entry in her daughter's diary (9862690)

3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (7521874) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7520145)

3.30 Rainbow (r) (9626058) **3.40 Tots TV** (s) (3877684) **3.50 Taz-Mania** (s) (7500752) **4.15 Harry's Mad** (Teletext) (s) (378416) **4.45 Art Attack** (Teletext) (s) (5699665)

5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (6517856)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (119481)

5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' opinions (696023)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (226)

6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (706)

7.00 Wish You Were Here...? Judith Chalmers visits Warwick Castle; John Carter explores three cities in America and Anna Walker travels to Holland by barge and bicycle (Teletext) (s) (8313)

7.30 Coronation Street (Teletext) (690)

8.00 Lucky Numbers. Shane Ritchie hosts the show in which three contestants battle for a £20,000 prize (6801)

8.30 World in Action. Thalidomide victim Kevin Donnellon from Liverpool and other victims talk about the pressures and problems facing them as they grow older (Teletext) (s) (3868)

Mystery with John Heard, Goldie Hawn (9.00pm)

9.00 FILM: Deceived (1991). A New York art dealer uncovers a web of deceit and murder following the death of her husband. Starring Goldie Hawn and John Heard. Directed by Damian Harris. Continues after the News. (Teletext) (s) (7936)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (23226)

10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (799706)

10.40 FILM: Deceived. Conclusion of the film (777329)

11.40 The Equalizer (974526)

12.40am Endsleigh League Extra (1780608)

1.25 Sport AM, with Bob Symonds (5573375)

2.25 Quiz Night. The Pear Tree from Liverpool v the Cranford Inn, Devon (1736207)

2.50 FILM: The 44 Specialist (1976). A secret service agent infiltrates a tough terrorist group. Directed by Stephen Massey (831153)

4.30 The Chrystal Rose Show (r) (s) (66360801)

4.55 The Time... the Place (r) (s) (6932714)

5.30 ITN Morning News (Teletext) (61530) Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Sandokan (r) (8049868)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (99394)

9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (78413)

9.30 Schools: Geography Start Here! (9109752) **9.46** Talk, Write and Read (9295503) **10.02** Stage Two Science (6076503) **10.20** Place and People (5887969) **10.40** English Programme (3841684) **11.05** Encyclopaedia Galactica (9594313) **11.15** The Music Show (2055058) **11.30** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (7929926) **11.45** Junior Technology (3348619)

12.00 Right To Reply (r). (Teletext) (s) (20139)

12.30 Sesame Street. The guest is Bill Irwin (13526) **1.30 Little Miss** followed by **Paddington, Frootie Tooties** and **The Wombles** (r) (59622892)

1.55 The Pulse. A repeat of Thursday's edition of the medical magazine (s) (44777941)

2.25 Travels A La Carte. Sophie Grigson and her husband, William Black, sample food in a Portuguese fishing village (r) (s) (1002481)

3.00 The Late Late Show. Dublin's topical chat and music show, presented by Gay Byrne (s) (6152771)

3.55 The 3,000 Mile Garden (r). (Teletext) (s) (8225058)

4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (503)

5.00 The Golden Girls. The girls find themselves alone on St Valentine's Day and start to reminisce about times gone by. With guest star Julio Iglesias (r) (9619)

5.30 Nurses. Comedy series set in a Miami hospital (r) (s) (955)

6.00 The Cosby Show (r). (Teletext) (s) (868)

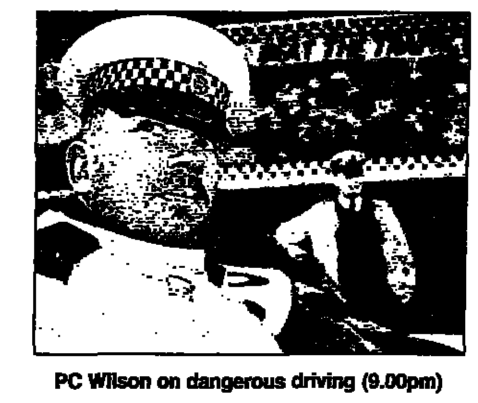
6.30 Hangin' With Mr Cooper. American campus comedy. (Teletext) (s) (348)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (860459)

7.50 The Slot. Viewers' soapbox series (774955)

8.00 Little Killers: The Handsome Killers. The last in the series focuses on the stoat and the weasel. Made by the celebrated wildlife film-maker Maurice Tibbles. (Teletext) (8503)

8.30 Only When I Laugh. Comedy series set in a hospital ward. Starring James Bolam, Christopher Strauli, Peter Bowles and Richard Wilson (r). (Teletext) (4110)



PC Wilson on dangerous driving (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Cutting Edge: A Is For Accident.** (Teletext) (1706)

10.00 NYPD Blue. New York police drama series. (Teletext) (s) (978481)

10.55 Tommy Davidson: Illin' In Philly. The comedian on stage at the Shubert Theatre in Philadelphia (s) (212597)

11.35 FILM: Medea (1970) starring Maria Callas as the priestess who betrayed her people in order to help Jason steal the Golden Fleece. Directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini. In Italian with English subtitles (465503)

1.35am Eye 2 Eye. Design quiz presented by Steve Taylor. The guests are Paul Morley, Michael Heath and Philippe Starck (r) (s) (4313882)

2.10 FILM: Whoopee (1930) starring Eddie Cantor. Vintage musical directed by Thornton Freeland (407085). Ends at **3.45**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News and Weather (2120394) **12.20pm-12.30** Anglia News (1158058) **1.55** A Country Practice (82103110) **2.20** Houseparty (61964110) **2.50-3.20** Blockbusters (9862690) **3.25-3.30** Anglia News and Weather (7520145) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6517856) **6.25-7.00** Anglia Weather followed by Anglia News (117435) **10.30-10.40** Anglia News (799706) **12.35am** Endsleigh League Extra (9913248) **1.10** Jesse (645733) **3.00** Sport AM (4396795) **3.55** The Time... the Place (43100511) **4.25** Yan Can Cook (1581511) **5.00-5.30** Wanted Dead or Alive (84646)

CENTRAL

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Central News (2120394) **12.20pm-12.30** Central News and Weather (1158058) **1.55** A Country Practice (82103110) **2.20** Look and Cook (61964110) **2.50-3.20** Blockbusters (9862690) **3.25-3.30** Central News (7520145) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6517856) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (117435) **10.30-10.40** Central News and Weather (799706) **11.40** The Monday Night Fight (974526) **12.40am-1.25** Endsleigh League Football Extra (1780608) **4.25** Jobfinder (7285627) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (8869085)

GRANADA

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Granada News (2120394) **12.20pm-12.30** Granada News (1158058) **12.55** Shortland Street (4912684) **1.25** Home and Away (30581868) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote (7941058) **2.45-3.20** De Medici Kitchen (7284874) **3.25-3.30** Granada News (7520145) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (6517856) **6.25** Granada Tonight (117435) **7.00-7.30** Wish You Were Here...? (8313) **10.30-10.40** Granada News (799706) **11.40** The Equalizer (974526) **12.40am** Endsleigh League Extra (1780608) **1.25** Sport AM (5573375) **2.25** Quiz Night (1736207) **2.50-4.25** The 44 Specialist (103882) **4.55-5.30** The Time... the Place (6932714)

HTV WEST

As London except: 9.55-10.00 HTV West Headlines (2120394) **12.20pm-12.30** HTV West News and Weather (1158058) **1.55** Art Works (93428459) **2.25-3.20** Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (2857058) **3.25-3.30** HTV West Headlines (7520145) **5.10-5.40** The New Mr & Mrs Show (6517856) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (706) **10.30-10.40** HTV West Headlines and Weather (799706) **11.40** Spotlight (750077) **12.10am-12.40** The Powers That Be (1866153) **4.25-4.55** Jobfinder (94557191)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 9.55-10.00 HTV Wales News (2120394) **12.20pm-12.30** HTV Wales News and Weather (1158058) **3.25-3.30** HTV Wales News (7520145) **5.10-5.40** Eye TV (6517856) **6.30-7.00** Wales Tonight (706) **10.30-10.40** HTV Wales News and Weather (799706) **11.40-12.10pm** Primetime (750077)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (82103110) **2.20-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (7841394) **5.10** Home and Away (6517856) **5.37** Three Minutes - The Listings (789787) **5.40** ITN News, Weather (856400) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (226) **6.30-7.00** Country Ways (706) **10.30-10.40** Meridian News and Weather (799706) **11.40** Phoenix (353058) **12.35am** Endsleigh League Extra (9913248) **1.10** Jesse (645733) **3.00** Sport AM (4396795) **3.55** The Time... the Place (43100511) **4.25** Yan Can Cook (1581511) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (84646)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 1.55 Gardeners' Diary (93428459) **2.25-2.55** The Young Doctors (61963481) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6517856) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (49752) **11.40-12.40pm** Crime Story (974526) **4.25am-4.55** Jobfinder (94557191)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (82103110) **2.20** Wish You Were Here...? (61964110) **2.50** Help Yourself (9277690) **2.55-3.20** Shortland Street (7987023) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6517856) **5.55** Calendar (308110) **6.30-7.00** Crimestoppers Special (706) **10.30-10.40** Calendar News and Weather (799706) **11.40** Prisoner Cell Block H (353058) **12.35am** Fire and Ice (310443) **2.25** The New Music (6713882) **3.25** The Chart Show (4308530) **4.20-5.30** Jobfinder (9379714)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (99394) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (78413) **9.30** Ysgolion (861329) **12.00pm** Right To Reply (20139) **12.30** Slot Meithrin (35503) **1.00** The Magic Roundabout (92481) **1.30** The Way We Were (34874) **2.00** Ten North Frederick (558965) **3.55** The 3,000 Mile Garden (8225058) **4.30** Board Stupid (503) **5.00** 5 Pump (5169400) **5.15** 5 Pump (7357313) **5.30** Countdown (955) **6.00** Newyddion (325023) **6.15** Heno (741936) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (6955) **7.30** Sgorio (56955) **8.30** Newyddion (4110) **9.00** Y Byd Ar Bedwar (1058) **9.30** Roseanne (59139) **10.00** NYPD Blue (978481) **10.55** Homicide (91467684)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am The DJ Kat Show (58868) **8.00** The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (50348) **8.30** DJ Kat Show (3120110) **8.45** The Oprah Winfrey Show (9231481) **9.30** Card Sharks (82435) **10.00** Concentration (5046348) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (7220771) **10.30** Candid Camera (66956) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (34481) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (53435) **12.30pm** E Street (80023) **1.00** St Elsewhere (81706) **2.00** I'll Take Manhattan (10313) **3.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (1017232) **3.50** The DJ Kat Show (4626787) **4.30** The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (9313) **5.00** Star Trek. The Next Generation (1042) **6.00** Gamesworld (3706) **6.30** Blockbusters (4058) **7.00** E Street (2771) **7.30** M*A*S*H (6662) **8.00** Due South (11961) **9.00** Civil Wars (35597) **10.00** Star Trek. The Next Generation (38684) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (102711) **11.50** Littlejohn (887110) **12.40am** Chances (7727608) **1.30** Night Court (61117) **2.00-6.00** Hitmix Long Play (5451207)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour

6.00am Sunrise (9965665) **9.30** Sky Worldwide Report (9478394) **10.10** CBS 60 Minutes (47391226) **1.30pm** CBS News This Morning (23042) **2.30** Parliament Live (67868) **4.00** World News and Business (86787) **5.00** Live at Five (2226787) **6.05** Richard Littlejohn (367972) **8.00** World News and Business (19503) **9.00** Live Coverage of the O.J. Simpson Trial (5672077) **12.30am** ABC World News Tonight (2799375) **1.10** 60 Minutes (8117153) **2.30** Parliament Replay (98191) **4.30** CBS Evening News (26462) **5.30-6.00** ABC World News Tonight (10820)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (2248972) **10.00 Walking Thunder** (1993) (91139) **12.00 Grayeagle** (1978) (97416) **2.00pm A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum** (1966) (29936) **4.00 Heartbeeps** (1981) (9874) **6.00 Walking Thunder** (1993) As 10am (32400) **8.00 The Vernon Johns Story** (1994) (17145) **10.00 Patriot Games** (1992) (93077) **12.00 Night of the Living Dead** (1992) (76563) **1.30pm Chud 2: Bud the Chud** (1989) (8787207) **2.55-4.50 The Don is Dead** (1973) (19733530)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm In Name Only (1939) (58892) **8.00 Georgy Girl** (1966) (19597) **10.00-12.00 Midnight Cowboy** (1969) (79481)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am My Son John (1952) (56566416) **8.05 The Bugs Bunny/ Road Runner Movie** (1979) (61922232) **9.40 A League of Their Own** (1992) (37908706) **11.50 Imitation of Life** (1959) (96883684) **2.00pm High Hell** (1958) (445042) **3.40 The Bugs Bunny/Road Runner Movie** (1979) As 8.05am (104058) **5.20 A League of Their Own** (1992): As 9.40am (73378049) **7.30 UK Top Ten** (3752) **8.00 Sodbusters** (1993) (15767) **10.00 The Hidden 2** (1993) (326348) **11.35 Leon the Pig Farmer** (1992) (264481) **1.20am Dangerous Desire** (1992) (149743) **2.55 Pretty Princess** (481172) **4.35-6.00 High Hell** (1958) As 2pm (8204646)

● **For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Max Out (82042) **7.30** Super Sunday (92400) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (15936) **10.00** International Snooker, Live: International Open from Bournemouth (3796619) **5.00** World Wrestling Federation Mania (7056) **6.00** Soccer News (681226) **6.15** Snooker Update (909503) **7.00** Ford Escort Monday Night Football: West Ham United v Everton (62831503) **10.15** Soccer News (274139) **10.30** International Snooker Highlights (65787) **12.30-2.30am** Ford Monday Night Football: As 7pm (68714)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Golf (94868) **9.30** Cross-Country Skiing (22684) **10.00** Ski Jumping (65329) **11.00** Alpine Skiing (72665) **12.00** Athletics (81416) **1.30pm** Football (63684) **2.30** Tennis (98684) **4.30** Freestyle Skiing (52771) **5.30** Supercross (49771) **6.30** Eurosport News (2042) **7.00** Speedworld (60874) **9.00** Football (41684) **10.30** Boxing (45435) **11.30** Eurogolf Magazine (22481) **12.30-1.00am** Eurosport News (55022)

SKY SOAP

8.00am Loving (6294313) **8.30** Peyton Place (6293684) **9.00** As the World Turns (6011972) **10.00** Guiding Light (6089416) **11.00-12.00** Another World (6996752)

SKY TRAVEL

12.00 Costa Del Sol (6297400) **12.30pm** Zoo Life with Jack Hanna (1242684) **1.00** Great Escapes (6907868) **1.30** The Real Food of China (1241955) **2.00** California's Gold (8637329) **2.30** Kaleidoscope — Oslo (7395665) **3.00** An American in Tahiti (1223055) **4.00** Sky Travel Guide (7482145) **4.30** Zoo Life with Jack Hanna (7486329) **5.00** Trailside — Make Your Own Adventure (8548481) **5.30** The Real Food of China (7399481) **6.00** Getaway — Australia (7396394) **6.30** Discover Your World (7483874) **7.00** American Vacation (8713145) **8.00** Around the World in 30 Minutes (8544685) **8.30** Sky Travel Guide (8558400) **9.00** Getaway — Australia (1231077) **9.30** Discover Your World (1335348) **10.00** American Vacation (8712416) **11.00** Trailside — Make Your Own Adventure (1130394) **11.30-12.00** California's Gold (2629752)

Jon Voight in *Midnight Cowboy* (Sky Movies Gold, 10.00pm)

TLC

9.00am Crawshaw's Watercolour Studio (2142684) **9.30** Madeleine Cooks (1192042) **10.00** Youth And Grief (4073400) **10.30** Only Human (6283058) **11.30** The Opposite Sex (3129771) **12.30pm** Running to Stand Still (1276058) **1.00** Madeleine Cooks (1623874) **1.30** Crawshaw's Watercolour Studio (1275329) **2.00** Jimmy's (4840481) **2.30** Lifestories (2949348) **3.00** How Does Your Garden Grow? (4932416) **3.30-4.00** Green Pages (2848665)

UK GOLD

7.00am Give Us a Clue (8473351) **7.30** Neighbours (4880176) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (2234619) **8.30** EastEnders (2226690) **9.00** The Bill (2144042) **9.30** Flesh And Blood (4770787) **10.30** Juliet Bravo (6285416) **11.30** No Place Like Home (4988955) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (2237706) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1278416) **1.00** EastEnders (9823892) **1.30** The Bill (1277787) **2.00** Spring and Autumn (4859139) **2.30** Rings on Their Fingers (2941706) **3.00** Knots Landing (4982771) **4.00** Dallas (4074706) **5.00** Every Second Counts (4973955) **5.40** Captain Pugwash (9105690) **5.50** Hi-De-Hi! (9405348) **6.30** EastEnders (2933787) **7.00** The Two Ronnies (9200110) **8.00** Rings on Their Fingers (4835503) **8.30** My Wife Next Door (4841110) **9.00** Tenko (9206394) **10.00** The Bill (2238435) **10.30** Top of the Pops (5787042) **11.20** Ripping Yarns (3610110) **12.00** Dr Who (5121269) **12.30am** Rockliffe's Babies (5381066) **1.25** Squadron (9155022) **2.25** Shopping at Night (3131917)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame Street (1441752) **6.55** Garfield and Friends (9098329) **7.25** Eek the Cat (8198416) **7.55** Pugwall's Summer (3636481) **8.25** Super Mario Brothers (1288329) **8.45** Casper and Friends (9987961) **9.00** Sesame Street (67394) **10.00** It's Droibee Time (98232) **11.00** Portland Bill (12868) **12.00** Garfield and Friends (35684) **12.30pm** Eek the Cat (57348) **1.00** Beverly Hills Teens (16684) **1.30** Super Mario Brothers (31887315) **1.45** Baby Follies (67588508) **2.00** Barney and Friends (8329) **2.30** Babar (5961) **3.00** Casper and Friends (5700232) **3.15** Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (352485) **3.45** Sonic the Hedgehog (702936) **4.15** Head to Head in 3D (1194077) **4.30-5.00** California Dreams (9597)

NICKELODEON

7.00am Nickalive! (5960333) **7.15** Pee-Wee's Playhouse (982810) **7.45** Rugrats (332351) **8.15** Doug (201145) **8.45** Nickalive! (9948961) **9.00** Nick Junior (800023) **12.00** Pee-Wee's Playhouse (79058) **12.30pm** The Muppet Show (15954) **1.00** Smoggies (89955) **1.30** Alvin and the Chipmunks (65495) **2.00** Denver the Last Dinosaur (2313) **2.30** Galaxy High School (6435) **3.00** Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (4348) **3.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (5752) **4.00** Doug (7787) **4.30** Rugrats (3771) **5.00** Clarissa Explains It All (3665) **5.30** Alex Mac (4023) **6.00** Grimmy (1936) **6.30** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (1589)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Global Family (2850400) **4.30** Earthfile (2856684) **5.00** Blood, Sweat and Glory (49203477) **6.05** Beyond 2000 (8734042) **7.00** Next Step (4851597) **7.30** Future Quest (2857313) **8.00** Russian Rocketman (9217400) **9.00** Reaching for the Skies (9204936) **10.00** Africa the Hard Way (9207023) **11.00** Special Forces (4073077) **11.30-12.00** Those Who Dare (4079684)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Madness of the Heart (1949) (4153690) **2.00pm** The Avengers (4076955) **3.00** Rat Patrol (4856042) **3.30** Hogan's Heroes (2948619) **4.00** FILM: Beach Blanket Bingo (1965) (4930058) **6.00** The Protectors (2837503) **6.30** Cannon (2277058) **7.30** The Invisible Man (2851139) **8.00** The Avengers (9211226) **9.00** The New Avengers (9397690) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Bad Boys (1983) (4976110)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (5020145) **7.00** Living Magazine (1362787) **8.00** Room for Change (3797706) **8.30** Rendezvous (3796077) **9.00** On the House (3787329) **9.30** Kate and Allie (3592752) **10.00** Now You See It (8189110) **10.30** The Susan Powter Show (3603313) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (2860972) **12.00** Masterchef (7148348) **12.35pm** Rendezvous (84868455) **1.05** Kilroy (7070077) **2.00** Agony Hour (8197139) **3.00** Living Magazine (9438752) **3.45** Gladrags and Glamour (98435226) **4.00** Infatuation (6935110) **4.30** Crosswits (38554042) **4.55** Take Six Cooks (8558110) **5.30** Kate and Allie (6028874) **6.00** The Susan Powter Show (6025787) **6.30** Brookside (6943139) **7.00** Living Magazine (7631348) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (7544868) **9.00** FILM: The Parade (1984) (7547955) **11.00** Brookside (4294787) **11.30-12.00** Infatuation UK (8185394)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Danger Mouse (9481) **5.30** Motormouth (513955) **6.25** All Clued Up (724394) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (2145) **7.30** My Two Dads (4446) **8.00** Ann Of Green Gables (11855) **9.00** Moonlighting (50049) **10.00** Family Catchphrase (36313) **10.30** GP (18961) **11.00** Lou Grant (99961) **12.00** Rhoda (77153) **12.30am** Big Brother Jake (48882) **1.00** Danger Mouse (78578) **1.30** Trivial Pursuit (71153) **2.00** Moonlighting (13022) **3.00** Lou Grant (74559) **4.00** Rhoda (58849) **4.30-5.00** Big Brother Jake (59443)

MTV

5.00am Awake on the Wildside (17801) **6.30** The Grind (79619) **7.00** Awake on the Wildside (23597) **8.00** VJ Ingo (812348) **11.00** Soul (14226) **12.00** Greatest Hits (65313) **1.00pm** The Afternoon Mix (509077) **3.30** Coca-Cola Report (5384684) **3.45** Cinematic (5389139) **4.00** News at Night (1000684) **4.15** 3 from 1 (1196435) **4.30** Dial MTV (1955) **5.00** Hit List UK (21435) **7.00** Greatest Hits (18565) **8.00** Nirvana Live and Loud (13313) **9.00** The Real World 3 (66961) **9.30** Beavis and Butt-Head (66042) **10.00** Coca-Cola Report (704955) **10.15** Cinematic (792110) **10.30** News at Night (422042) **10.45** 3 from 1 (427597) **11.00** The End? (52690) **1.00am** Soul (10191) **2.00** The Grind (36627) **2.30** Night Videos (7713462)

VH-1

7.00am Crawling from the Wreckage (6906139) **9.00** Café (6494232) **12.00** The Bridge (1336077) **1.00pm** Videos (6909226) **1.30** Ten of the Best (1435684) **2.30** Heart and Soul (2577855) **3.30** Into the Music (9469477) **6.00** Prime Cuts (7398752) **6.30** VH-1 to 1 (7485232) **7.00** VH-1 for You (8715503) **8.00** Album Chart (8839139) **10.00** The Bridge (6116526) **11.30** The Nightfly (5766085) **1.30am** Ten of the Best (3881240) **2.30-7.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from 6am to 7pm, including **5.00** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

TV ASIA

6.00am Persian Dawn (38077) **7.00** Asian Morning (32348) **8.30** Buniyaad (28394) **9.00** Pakistani FILM. Naseeb (537145) **12.00** Ghar (50481) **1.00pm** Hindi FILM: Waaris (443232) **4.00** Drama. Daldal (62145) **5.00** Buniyaad (8435) **5.30** TVA and You (3503) **6.00** Cookery Programme (1936) **6.30** Tik Tik Tik (8416) **7.00** Baba Jaan and Sons (6929) **7.30** Des Pardes (4400) **8.00** News Bulletin (5077) **8.30** Albeley (1684) **9.00** Hindi FILM Gardish (470771) **12.00** Asian Morning (58443) **1.30am** Sight and Sound (6258849)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.

7.00pm The Duchess of Idaho (1950): Esther Williams tries to patch up her room-mate's romance, but falls in love herself (22162435) **9.00 Rhapsody** (1954) (90950941) **11.15 Hysteria** (1965) (40069077) **12.50am Remember** (1939) (75482375) **2.25-5.00 Dr Gillespie's New Assistant** (1942) (53619882)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel

HALE AND HEARTY 41
HIGH PAY AND MORE
PERKS MAKE FOR
HEALTHY TOP BOSSES

BUSINESS

INVESTOR POWER 42
GRAHAM SEARJEANT
ON THE CULTURE
THAT BREEDS POVERTY

MONDAY FEBRUARY 13 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Crisis talks at Warburg over staff exodus

By Patricia Tehan, banking correspondent

DIRECTORS of SG Warburg, the crisis-stricken City investment bank, held an emergency board meeting yesterday to try to work out how to prevent the departure of some of its best staff.

The executive and non-executive directors are understood to have been attempting to identify staff the bank cannot afford to lose and to have made a variety of commitments to key staff, agreeing pay rises, additional bonuses and, in some cases, guaranteed bonuses.

The directors also discussed splitting the roles of chairman and chief executive. Lord Cairns, the chief executive, had intended to take on both roles with the retirement of Sir David Scholey, the chairman, in June.

The problems at Warburg have now become so severe that the Bank of England has asked to be kept informed of developments. The difficulty for Warburg will be finding the extra cash to pay the bonuses. Last year was not a good one for investment banking. Warburg made a first-half loss on its trading activities and group profits crashed from £148.8 million to £62.5 million, the bulk of it coming from its 75 per cent-owned Mercury Asset Management subsidiary. City analysts are predicting full-year profits of about £148 million in the year to the end of March.

Warburg has the reputation of rewarding its staff well. In the year to March 31, 1994, its total staff costs were £469.9 million, or an average of £105,000 per person. Until the end of last year, Warburg was viewed as the City's most prestigious investment bank. But the since collapse of merger talks with Morgan Stanley, a US rival, in December, Warburg has been unable to convince staff that it is able to achieve its ambition to be a global investment bank alone.

The exodus at Warburg started last week when Morgan Grenfell, Deutsche Bank's investment bank, poached Maurice Thompson and Michael Cohrs, the joint heads of Warburg's 30-strong equity capital markets team. By the end of last week, eight of their team had joined them there, including one US-based director, David Miller.

Warburg's strength has always been in the quality of its corporate finance staff, and its high-quality research teams. However, this could also prove to be its great weakness.

Morgan Grenfell is busy building up a new equities operation in London. With Deutsche Bank's chequebook at its disposal, it is able to take the best individuals and teams from wherever it likes.

It is understood to have targeted other people at Warburg, and if they go their teams are likely to follow.

The collapse of talks with Morgan Stanley left Warburg looking vulnerable. It had publicly admitted it needed the help of its rival to achieve its global ambitions. It was put in the embarrassing position of attempting to convince staff that it has a strategy and explain what it is.

One insider said: "There has been a lot of disatisfaction within the bank about the way it is being run and the publicity we have had."

One of Warburg's leading institutional investors said Warburg had to "stem the flow and that means making some public decisions in terms of strategy. Staff are unsettled. If you put your business into play and it does not come off, you have a problem. People expect things to happen, and to happen quickly. Warburg had signalled that it needed a partner."

The Warburg employees needed to know what sort of organisation they were working for, he added.

Warburg said of the hiring by Morgan Grenfell, "it has happened before in international banking and will happen again".

Lord Cairns, chief executive, who had intended to take on the role of chairman as well

Mystery over NU sale of City site

By Lindsay Cook, business editor

NORWICH UNION was last night at the centre of a mystery over who bought one of its City properties in a £159 million deal. NU has been reducing its weighting in property for some time, after the collapse in the commercial property market. It was said to have sold Beaufort House to the Libyan Government, but a spokeswoman for Britain's third-largest life insurer said that there was a confidentiality clause on the deal.

"We never had confirmation as to who were the ultimate purchasers, and if we had, we would not be able to answer any questions about the purchaser," Norwich Union said.

NU had checked with the buyer's solicitors that the money was not from illegal sources, such as drug dealing, before going ahead. "We made sure that the money came through reputable banks and that the source was legitimate," it said.

The spokeswoman said: "We do every deal on its own merits. I cannot say whether we would knowingly have sold to the Libyan Government. It would not have been illegal."

Norwich Union, which bought the 12-storey property on the City's eastern edge, at the top of the market in 1989, lost £48 million on the sale, to a Jersey company, which on the same day is said to have sold it on to an Isle of Man-registered group for £27 million more. The Isle of Man company is said to be a subsidiary of the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company, a Tripoli-based foreign investment vehicle for the Libyan Government.

The 1993 sale took place a few months before Britain froze all Libyan-owned assets in response to the Lockerbie bombing.

Heseltine to decide fate of Northern this week

By Martin Waller, deputy city editor

MICHAEL HESELTINE, the President of the Board of Trade, will decide this week, possibly as early as today, the fate of Northern Electric, the regional electricity company under a £1.2 billion takeover threat from Trafalgar House.

The City is increasingly convinced that he will wave the deal through with a few conditions attached.

Such a decision, which would be a bitter blow to Northern, would effectively open up the entire electricity sector to hostile takeover bids and send prices soaring.

It would also prompt an unusually generous defence strategy from the company being bid for. Northern has until this Friday, day 39 of the bid, to issue its formal defence document.

Yesterday, David Morris, the chairman of Northern, and several directors were working on the document in the offices of SG Warburg, the company's financial adviser, in London.

If the prospect of a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commssion and a delay of six months at least is kicked away, Northern is expected to respond by offering a huge special dividend and other incentives to its shareholders in return for their loyalty and the defeat of the bid.

The entire package could total more than £1 a share, and Trafalgar would then come under pressure to match it if it wishes to succeed.

Mr Heseltine was initially expected to decide last week on one of the most difficult takeover battles he has had to rule on. The bid by Trafalgar, whose interests span construction, property and shipping, for Northern, one of 12 regional power companies in England and Wales, seems to raise no serious matters of competition.

But it does present the Office of Fair Trading, which is advising Mr Heseltine, and his Department of Trade and Industry itself with a knotty political problem.

Trafalgar is 26 per cent owned by Hongkong Land and the bid has been depicted by Northern as a smash-and-grab raid by a corporate predator with no strong links with Britain or its target's home base in the North East.

Mr Heseltine's failure to make a ruling on Thursday, when it had been expected, raised the City's expectations of an MMC reference, because he was due on Friday to open a new Business Link centre in Sunderland, on Northern's home turf.

Such an event would have provided an ideal public relations opportunity to rule in Northern's favour and for a reference. But the day passed without an announcement to the local, albeit staunchly Labour, crowd, which speculators believe lengthens the odds for the bid to be cleared, albeit with conditions that will require Trafalgar to provide various assurances to the industry regulator, Stephen Littlechild.

One observer said: "Sunderland was an ideal opportunity for somebody as politically motivated as Heseltine to endorse publicly in Tony Blair's backyard that the MMC must be the most obvious forum for considering the bid. It's 50:50 now — the market genuinely doesn't know."

The Northern share price reflects this uncertainty. The shares closed at 980p on Friday, well behind the £10.48 cash on offer from Trafalgar but well ahead of other prices in the sector.

If Mr Heseltine clears the deal, he is expected to require Trafalgar to reach agreement with Professor Littlechild over assurances that Northern will continue to be operated as an independent company under its ownership.

This would need transparent accounting procedures for Northern, equally transparent financial information given to the regulator so that he can continue to compare the business with the other electricity companies, and some ring-fencing of financial assets. Trafalgar is thought likely to accept such a deal willingly.

ASH in refinancing talks

By Our City Staff

AUTOMATED Security Holdings, the burglar alarm and security group, is in refinancing talks with its banks. To avoid a qualification in its accounts, the refinancing deadline is the end of March. ASH is believed to be seeking to roll over a £70 million multi-option loan facility, as well as other loans.

Tom Buffett, chairman and chief executive, left last October and moved to Florida. He had been spending an increasing amount of time abroad, and the board was concerned it was becoming difficult for him to carry out fully his management roll. His five-year rolling contract entitled him to £1 million in compensation. Lord Lane of Horsell, moved from deputy chairman to succeed Mr Buffett as chairman, but ASH has so far been unable to find a new chief executive.

General Cable to proceed with listing

By Eric Reguly

GENERAL CABLE, the sixth-largest cable operator, yesterday said it will proceed with its long-delayed effort to float on the London and Nasdaq Exchanges. The operator expects to sell about 70 million shares, raising £200 million.

Scheduled for the spring, the flotation will value the company between £600 million and £700 million. The shares will be split more or less equally between the British and American markets.

General Cable, owned by Compagnie Générale des Eaux of France, had planned to float last May with an issue worth about £500 million. It cancelled the financing, citing poor market conditions.

David Miller, General Cable's finance director, said British investors now are more receptive to cable issues. "People understand cable in the UK better than they did last year," he said. "Just look at the interest in the TeleWest flotation."

TeleWest, one of the two largest cable companies, raised £1.8 billion in a joint British-American flotation late last year. The issue of 216 million shares was three times oversubscribed.

TeleWest remains the only cable company with a London listing. The other listed companies, Bell Cablemedia, Comcast and International CableTel, trade on Nasdaq only. A fourth company, Videotron, recently announced it will seek a Nasdaq listing as well.

TeleWest and General Cable will not be alone in London. Bell Cablemedia, owned 14 per cent by Cable and Wireless, wants a London listing by the summer. Nynex CableComms, owned by the Nynex phone company of New York, is expected to float in London as early as April.

Analysts said General Cable stands out because it has the strongest exposure to the potentially lucrative cable telephony market. It has more than 16,000 business phone lines and 110,000 residential phone lines.

British cable companies, unlike their American counterparts, legally can offer both telephone and video services.

TUC labels drive for new jobs a failure

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

The Government's drive for greater flexibility in the labour market has failed to produce new jobs, the Trades Union Congress says today. In a new study prepared for the United Nations' International Labour Organisation, the TUC says that government claims that the deregulation of the UK labour market has increased the level of employment are misleading and inaccurate.

The TUC's attack comes as ministers prepare to announce this week the unemployment figures. They hope the jobless figures will show a further fall, though they recognise that January is traditionally a high unemployment month, and Whitehall officials point out that the number out of work and claiming benefit rose in January last year, against a prevailing downward trend.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, said: "The Government's claims that its policy of deregulation has expanded the jobs market does not stand up to serious scrutiny.

Jobs test, page 42

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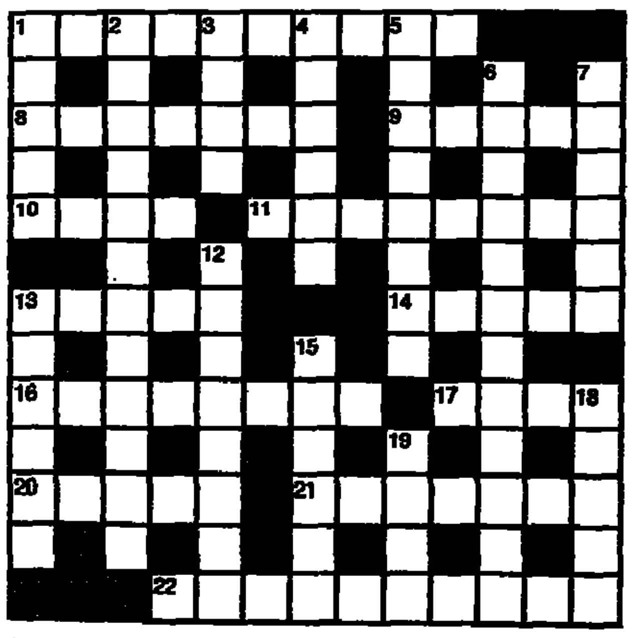


TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 394

ACROSS
- 1 Old-fashioned person: earlier issue of paper (4,6)
- 8 Ring-shaped: type of eclipse (7)
- 9 Thick (5)
- 10 Sentimentally pretty (4)
- 11 Intrepid (8)
- 13 Bishop's headgear (5)
- 14 Dawdle, trifle (5)
- 16 Work done on wool with needles (8)
- 17 Layer of algae etc on pond (4)
- 20 Interior furnishing style (5)
- 21 Having an arched roof; jumped (7)
- 22 In general (2,3,5)

DOWN
- 1 Force of explosion (5)
- 2 Orchestra tuning standard (7,5)
- 3 Of no effect (4)
- 4 Something keeping one's place; type of pen (6)
- 5 Fabulous wealthy city (8)
- 6 One conducting conversation (12)
- 7 Meagre; having spotty disease (6)
- 12 Science fiction weapon (5-3)
- 13 Manage with inadequate resources (4,2)
- 15 Not level (6)
- 18 Tiny insect, swarms, may bite (5)
- 19 Draw; influence (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 393

ACROSS: 1 Buoyancy 7 Feral 8 To the life 9 Wag 10 Nigh 11 Listen 13 Gantry 14 Convey 17 Annals 18 Deaf 20 Bag 22 In the pink 23 Genus 24 Teenager

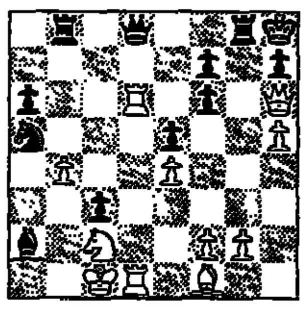
DOWN: 1 Baton 2 Octagon 3 Apex 4 Clinic 5 Drawn 6 Flighty 7 Festoon 12 Francis 13 Gamboge 15 Veering 16 Blithe 17 Agony 19 Fakir 21 Fern

CROSSWORD BOOKS : The Times Concise Crosswords: (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each), Books 3,4,5,6 & NEW Book 7 £4.50 each. The Times Jumbo Crosswords: (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each, Concise Book £5.99). The Times Crosswords : (Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each). Books 14 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £4.50 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords — (Book 1 £4.99), Books 10,11,12 & NEW Book 13 £4.50 each. The Sunday Times Concise: Books 1,2,3 £4.50 each. Except the items in brackets, software available for all titles for IBM PCs and Acorn Archimedes computers — Price £14.95 each — also The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6, The Sunday Times Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Jubilee Edition. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Feher - Priehoda, Budapest 1994. Brilliant tactical play can sometimes been seen in defence rather than attack and today's position is just such a case. White is threatened with ... Nb3 mate. What is his best move?



Solution, page 41
Raymond Keene, page 6

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TENEBROSO
a. The twilight
b. Oscuro painting
c. A type of painter

TOROID
a. Like a bull
b. Like a couch
c. Like a torus

SHIATSU
a. A martial art
b. Alternative massage
c. A paper partition

SECKO
a. A type of tree lizard
b. A pervert
c. Balsamous resin

Answers on page 41